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Buckingham served with summons, complaint in Colo. PAGE 2
Bar Association starts evaluation of Quichocho. PAGE 3

School meals turning off students

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

- Guerrero orders PSS, vendors not to force students to take meals
- Low participation in certain foods bared
- New menu eyed for new school year

It turns out, just because it's free is not enough motivation for students to eat the supposedly "good-for-you" food being dished out in schools.

The Board of Education has ordered a review of the existing school meals menu after finding out that many students do not actually eat the free school meals, finding them unappetizing.

BOE chair Herman T. Guerrero said during Friday's special meeting that Education Commissioner of Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., has already been instructed to

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'Fitial has not communicated with OPA to date'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

- OPA legal counsel pushes arrest warrant vs ex-governor

To date, there has been no communication from former governor Benigno R. Fitial or anyone acting on his behalf about any plans to return to the CNMI to answer the criminal charges filed against him, according to Office of the Public Auditor lawyer George L. Hasselback.

In his declaration filed in Superior Court last week, Hasselback also disclosed that there has been no communication regarding any alternatives to Fitial's return to answer the charges.

"To date, the penal summons remains

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OPA files 15 criminal charges vs Kosam, 13 charges vs Rebuenog

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor filed yesterday formal criminal charges against Commonwealth Ports Authority police chief Jordon Kosam and CPA's Capt. Juan T. Rebuenog for their role in the alleged conspiracy to shield former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham from being served a penal summons.

OPA legal counsel George L. Hasselback filed in the Superior Court separate information charging Kosam with 15 charges and Rebuenog with 13 charges.

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LA FIESTA FACELIFT
Jesse Santos, a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. lineman, helps trim a tree in front of the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque on Friday, when Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider led members of the Cabinet and employees in cleaning up the surrounding area as part of tourism task force efforts.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

NMI wants Tinian, Pagan EIS split

- Funding sought for baseline studies

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

RELATED NEWS
- US military plans could speed up mining, eco-tourism on Pagan. PAGE 5

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday the CNMI needs adequate financial support to initiate baseline studies to evaluate the impacts of building live-fire training ranges and is asking the U.S. Department of Defense to split into two distinct environmental impact statement, or EIS, the proposed Pagan and Tinian ranges "to prevent the downfall of one range because of the other."

The U.S. military's proposed use of pristine Pagan for live-fire training is drawing a lot more concerns than the use of Tinian, where two-thirds of its lands

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:
Do you support the closure of the federal Labor Ombudsman's Office by Sept. 30?
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Victor Linan is named Pupil Transportation Staff of the Year.
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Gunmen open fire on people in New Orleans, wounding at least 19.
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Familiar names and celebrities dominate the Philippine midterm elections.
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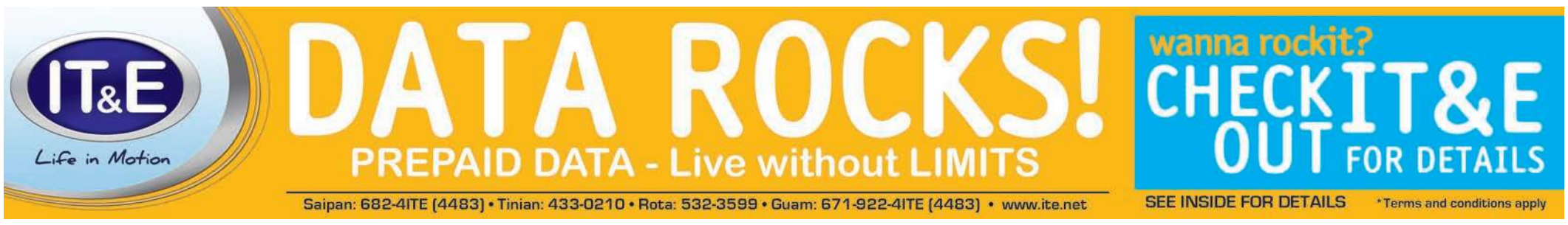
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Local

Buckingham served with summons, complaint in Colo.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Edward T. Buckingham, a former CNMI attorney general who is now a fugitive from justice, was served at his residence in Colorado with a summons and complaint filed by a former government lawyer for the Commonwealth who claims he was let go due to age discrimination.

Attorney Robert T. Torres, counsel for plaintiff James W. Taylor, filed yesterday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI Taylor's proof of service of the summons and complaint.

Torres disclosed that a Colorado-based process server delivered the summons and complaint at Buckingham's residence in Lakewood, Colorado on May 1.

"It was received by [Buckingham's] wife. He has been served," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

Taylor, retired U.S. Air Force officer, filed the lawsuit for age discrimination last month against Buckingham, the Office of the Attorney General, and 10 unnamed co-defendants.

Taylor claimed that Buckingham fired him to save on cost and in retaliation for his advice against the approval of some sole-source contracts.

Taylor, a citizen of the state of Washington, is an attorney licensed by the states of Washington, California, the District of Columbia, and the CNMI. He is a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel with 26 years of service.

Taylor said that Buckingham summarily dismissed him as an assistant attorney general in 2011 without following proper procedures.

Torres stated in the complaint that, although Taylor had advised Buckingham against approving some sole-source contracts, the former AG would approve them anyway.

In retaliation, Torres said that Buckingham terminated Taylor on April 13, 2011, and replaced him with six or more junior level attorneys.

The Superior Court has declared Buckingham a fugitive from justice. He is currently facing several criminal charges filed by the Office of the Public Auditor in Superior Court.

Linan is Pupil Transportation Staff awardee for 2013

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Victor Linan, the school bus driver for Tinian schools, was hailed as this year's overall PSS' Pupil Transportation Staff awardee for demonstrating commitment and dedication to service for schoolchildren.

A long-time PSS employee, Linan was bestowed the recognition by the State Board of Education and Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., during a recent visit to Tinian.

Linan, who has been with the system for 22 years now and its bus driver for more than 10 years, described the award as unexpected but said he is grateful to his colleagues for their vote of confidence and trust.

According to Tinian Elementary School principal Dionne B. Santos, the "Home of the Colts" are extremely proud of Linan's recognition.

"Victor has received the nomination for our school Pupil Transportation staff of the Year each year for the past six years. No one is more deserving of this recognition than he is. Victor is very committed and dedicated to providing quality service for our students and our school and we are very proud to have him on our team. Congratulations to you Victor! You deserve it!" said Santos.

On average, Linan transports about 50-60 students per day. He covers all public schools on Tinian, including the elementary, junior high, and high school.

When he is not transporting students to and from school, Linan assists with other responsibilities. His principal describes him as an excellent employee, dependable, reliable, and always offers to assist when he can.

Sablan, who remembers meeting Linan for the first time in 2008, also had good words for him.

"I met Victor in 2008 when I came back [to PSS] as commissioner. As a matter of fact, I rode on his bus when I was there early morning. We met and we went around picking up students. I can say he's very friendly, has good interpersonal skills with students, and makes sure they're good and happy," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*, describing him as an asset to the school system.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PSS' Pupil Transportation Staff of the Year Victor Linan, center, is flanked by education officials during a recent awarding on campus. From left are State Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero, board member Lucy Blanco-Maratita, Linan, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., and Tinian Elementary School principal Dionne B. Santos.

Besides Linan, Tinian Elementary also has four other outstanding employees this year. They include Jennifer San Nicolas as Teacher of the Year nominee; Teacher Aide of the Year Teresita S. Lazaro; Administrative Staff of the Year Carmen DLC. Farrell; and Trades and Maintenance of the Year Julita Diaz.

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NMI Bar Association starts evaluation of Quichocho

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI Bar Association is now doing its own evaluation of attorney Ramon K. Quichocho Jr., who has been nominated to become a Superior Court judge.

As this developed, *Saipan Tribune* learned from sources that Quichocho is facing three complaints of unethical conduct before the Bar Association. Court papers also show that Korean investor Jung Ja Kim's racketeering lawsuit against him is set for trial this November in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Quichocho

Quichocho said yesterday that the CNMI Bar has the right to send out surveys or evaluation forms to its members.

"I, however, have seen the evaluation form and it seems very subjective. So the final evaluation result will be totally dependent on how many lawyers that favor me and how many lawyers that oppose will submit the forms," Quichocho said.

He also stated that any Bar complaint is confidential.

The evaluation covers five criteria—experience, integrity, professional competence, judicial temperament, and service to the law and contribution to the effective administration of justice.

The evaluation's rating scale indicates 1 for unacceptable; 2 for deficient; 3 for acceptable; 4 for good; and 5 for excellent.

CNMI Bar Association president Sean E. Frink told *Saipan Tribune* that the evaluation forms were sent out yesterday morning to members and are due this Friday.

"This is a procedure that the Bar Association established long ago and we are following the procedure," Frink said.

He said the intent is to immediately release the evaluation results to the Bar membership and to the public.

Suzanne M. Steffy, CNMI Bar Association administrative director, notified members yesterday that the matter needs immediate attention as the Senate is expected to act upon Quichocho's nomination very soon.

Steffy said it would be beneficial to the Senate to have the input of the Bar before the nomination comes to a vote.

The Bar Association has about 200 active members.

Frink refused to comment about any Bar complaints against Quichocho. He said complaints filed before the Bar are confidential.

Sources revealed that Quichocho has three Bar complaints but they refused to elaborate because of confidentiality issues.

Acting governor Jude Hofshneider nominated Quichocho last Thursday to fill up a vacant Superior Court bench.

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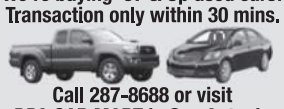
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Quichocho nomination a joint decision by Inos, Hofschneider

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider separately said Friday that they both agreed to nominate attorney Ramon "Ray" K. Quichocho to serve on the Superior Court as associate judge, and the nomination was "timed" when Hofschneider was acting governor on Thursday. Inos left for Guam to meet with a U.S. Navy admiral that day.

Some people thought it was only Hofschneider's idea.

"It's not an issue. We vetted that thing for a while. It's just a timing thing. I had to be off island," Inos said, adding that as a major appointment from Tinian, they thought it would be best for the acting governor to make such nomination. Hofschneider and Quichocho are from Tinian.

Hofschneider said it was a shared decision.

"I was acting governor [Thursday] but in no way, shape, or form that I'm going to pull the rug under the governor's feet," he told reporters Friday.

He said Quichocho's nomination has been made and it is now up to the Senate whether to confirm or reject the administration's nomination.

"I cannot speak for the Senate. But of course every time we send a nomination, we hope for a favorable result from the Senate," he said.

Hofschneider, a former Senate president, said the appointment of a fifth judge is also needed to help address court cases that are piling up.

Moreover, he said the Inos administration wants representation of the three senatorial districts on the bench.

As for selecting Quichocho, Hofschneider said he believes Quichocho is the most senior among four practicing attorneys from Tinian. The three others are Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas, attorney Janet King, and attorney Lucy Blanco Maratita, now executive director of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission.

Hofschneider also said Quichocho logged in a lot of court hours and is a hard worker.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations that is reviewing Quichocho's nomination, said they will wait for all required documents to be submitted before conducting a public hearing.

Cruz and Quichocho are cousins. But Cruz said the law does not mention being cousins as a possible source of conflict of interest in this matter.

If confirmed by the Senate, Quichocho will serve a six-year term. Quichocho has his own law offices since 2002.

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Petition: Closing Ombudsman's Office will reverse gains

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

An online petition to keep the U.S. Labor Ombudsman's Office open says the planned closure will reverse all gains made in ensuring that alien workers get fair and just treatment on U.S. soil. There is no telling as of yesterday, however, what weight such petition would have on the U.S. Department of the Interior's decision to close the office by the end of fiscal year 2013.

As of 8pm last night, the petition had almost 130 signatures. Its goal is 2,000 signatures.

The online petition, initiated by Florida-based human rights advocate and former CNMI teacher Wendy Doromal, is available at http://www.thepetitionsite.com/836/043/730/keep-the-cnmi-federal-ombudsman-office-open/?taf_id=9414091&cid=fb_na#.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the Inos administration understands the Office of Insular Affairs' decision, "especially in the midst of sequestration."

OIA told *Saipan Tribune* during the weekend that the closure is a result of a "dramatic shift" in the work of the ombudsman from working on serious labor abuses and violations to now more of providing routine assistance on immigration and labor matters such as application procedures. The Inos administration said it is cognizant of this.

"Still, Governor Inos expressed confidence that if and when OIA brings on board a new field representative, some degree of assistance will be made available," Demapan said.

The press secretary added that Gov. Eloy S. Inos also noted that, unlike before, there are now U.S. Department of Homeland Security offices based in the CNMI that provide the services that only the ombudsman's office used to provide in prior years.

"It's all pretty much a matter of the federal government offices complying with federal regulations," Demapan added.

Alien workers and advocates want the ombudsman's office to remain open.

The online petition said the ombudsman's office "has served as a safe and impartial office to provide tens of thousands of alien workers with the opportunity to state claims and receive appropriate assistance, including referrals to federal and local agencies, the limited number of the island's socials service providers, and law enforcement agencies."

It adds that the office has aided aliens that have suffered from wage theft, illegal recruitment, contract violations, and those that were victims of criminal acts including rape, assault and battery, false imprisonment, torture, and human trafficking.

FITIAL

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un-served," said Hasselback.

He now wants the court to quash the existing penal summons and re-issue a previously signed arrest warrant for the arrest of Fitial so that the prosecution of the case may proceed.

OPA has filed seven criminal charges against Fitial for his role in an alleged conspiracy to shield former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham from being served a penal summons in August last year.

On March 7, 2013, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman issued a penal summons that ordered the former governor to appear in court at 9am on the first Monday after receiving the summons to answer the allegations.

In OPA's request to re-issue the arrest warrant, Hasselback said the courtesy of issuing the penal summons was premised on the presumption that Fitial would return to the CNMI at once to answer the charges or at least make some arrangement to answer the complaint.

Hasselback recounted that Wiseman signed on March 6, 2013, OPA's proposed arrest warrant for Fitial. Attempts were made that evening to locate and execute the warrant but the effort was ultimately unsuccessful.

Hasselback said that OPA staff told him that Fitial was not in the CNMI.

He said Wiseman then informed him that he was withdrawing the arrest warrant and will issue instead a penal summons for Fitial's appearance in court out of respect for both the CNMI Office of the Governor and Fitial himself as a former chief executive.

"I expressed my reservations regarding this plan of action, but agreed to present a proposed penal summons to the Superior Court the following day for signature and instruct OPA staff to retrieve any and all copies of the withdrawn arrest warrant from any and all persons that had been provided with them," he said.

Hasselback said he specifically expressed his concern to Wiseman that the execution of the penal summons presumes that Fitial will voluntarily return to the CNMI.

Hasselback believes that without such voluntary return, a penal summons (as opposed to an arrest warrant) would limit the steps that could be taken to secure Fitial's presence in the CNMI to face charges.

He said the judge expressed optimism that Fitial would, at the very least, contact OPA to make arrangements to answer the charges, if not return to the CNMI without delay to make the arrangements.

"I agreed to inform the Superior Court of any such arrangements if they were eventually made," the lawyer said.

OPA

From Page 1

Kosam, through counsel Joaquin Torres, pleaded not guilty at yesterday's hearing.

Rebuenog's arraignment was moved to May 20 so he could find another lawyer. Attorney Bruce Berline was relieved as counsel for Rebuenog.

OPA charged Kosam with, among others, conspiracy to commit theft of services, theft of services, conspiracy to commit obstructing justice, obstructing justice, tampering with judicial records or process, and eight counts of misconduct in public office.

OPA charged Rebuenog with, among others, conspiracy to commit theft of services, theft of services, conspiracy to commit obstructing justice, obstructing justice, and seven counts of misconduct in public office.

The arraignment of former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro was also reset to May 20 at 9am. OPA filed criminal charges against Ogumoro last March 15.

OPA also filed in March seven criminal charges against former governor Benigno R. Fitial and 11 criminal charges against Fitial's former personal driver and bodyguard, Jermaine Joseph W. Nekaifes.

MEALS

From Page 1

provide a list of food items that schoolchildren do not find palatable and to propose additional menus that the board may consider for the new school year.

Guerrero said the revision of the school meals is necessary to prevent wasting more funds on food items that children just throw away.

Guerrero said he also ordered the management and food vendors not to force students to take their meals if they don't want to.

He shared with *Saipan Tribune* an incident in one school where a food vendor tried to force a student to take the meal he didn't want. Guerrero said the student, who just wanted water to go with his home-packed lunch, was given a hard time.

"You cannot force the kids to eat food that they don't like. If there's a low participation in a certain menu, the question that must be addressed is why? I told the commissioner that I don't want any PSS staff and vendor forcing a child to take a meal, only to dump it [later]. It doesn't make sense. It's a waste of food, and a waste of public funds," Guerrero said.

School meals in both public and private schools are funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

At Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School and San Antonio Elementary School, students were unanimous in saying they don't like to eat black beans, which they usually see on their menus. Guerrero said this may be changed by making the "black beans" more appealing to students by either mixing it or combining it with other food menus such as spaghetti.

"So we are encouraging the management to work with the vendors and come out with more palatable foods for the kids. We need a balance on this thing because every food that is directly disposed by our students is a waste of taxpayers' money," he said.

"I know [about this issue] because my nephew always tells his mom to just give him a bento or any food to take to school the next day," added Guerrero.

'Refugee food'

Board member Tanya King expressed similar concerns, citing complaints of Rota's Sinapalo parents based on a survey conducted among them.

King described the school meals being served to students as "refugee food" due to the mixture of brown and white rice on the menu.

"Based on the parents' survey, they don't like their students being fed 'refugee food.' They did not like that mixture," said King.

In separate interviews with parents yesterday, at least three mothers who agreed to speak on condition of anonymity expressed the same sentiments about the school menus.

A 33-year-old mother from Chinatown who has two children that get free meals from PSS admitted that there are days in the week when her children would ask her for home-packed lunch because they don't like the menu for the day. PSS menus are published in advanced.

"I prepare extra food for them so they have options whenever they don't like the food at their cafeteria. Like other students, my kids are not a big fan of the mixed brown and white rice, the pure black beans, the ground meat, among the usual choices," the mother said.

Two other parents shared that their children would just take home their untouched meal.

According to Sablan, revising the school menu is always a possibility each year but there must be a survey or study that needs to be conducted first that will support the desired change.

PSS, she said, can always recycle its menus to make sure that food offered to students are in compliance with the wellness and health nutritional policy of the board.

At present, PSS is looking for either a registered dietitian or a nutritionist to fill the post vacated by Dianne Esplin last year. The lack of a nutritionist, education officials said, has no impact once a revised school menu is implemented.

PSS serves 14,000 breakfast and lunch meals daily to public and private schools.

NMI

From Page 1

are under lease to DoD.

The governor listed specific "significant impacts" posed by the military's plans on the CNMI's population, environment, resources, tourism and commerce, airspace, and general way of life, among other things.

Inos, as chairman of the Military Integration Management Committee, signed the CNMI government's formal comments to the CNMI Joint Military Training EIS/Overseas EIS.

MIMC submitted the letter just in time for the May 13 deadline to submit comments.

"The MIMC finds that, absent adequate funding, the CNMI will not be able to execute baseline studies needed to evaluate and monitor surface water quality, groundwater quality, marine water quality, air quality, and island ecosystems," Inos said in the six-page letter.

MIMC, funded by the federal government, represents the CNMI's unified voice and serves as the islands' line of communication with the U.S. military.

Inos pointed out that the CNMI has been and will always support all U.S. military initiatives related to its buildup in the Pacific.

"Although there are some concerns, the CNMI welcomes the military's presence and the opportunity to provide comments on the Marianas Forces Pacific's CJMT EIS/OEIS," the governor said.

MIMC's comments to the EIS, however, are separate from the governor's plan to write President Barack Obama to ask for Covenant Section 902 talks on the proposed use of Pagan and Tinian for live-fire training ranges and other activities.

As of yesterday, the governor has yet to send that letter.

MIMC also seeks assurance that when conducting the environmental justice component, the EIS thoroughly studies the disparity of environmental and economic impacts on Guam, "where most of the military will be housed, and Tinian and Pagan, where most of the training is proposed to occur."

MIMC listed at least 12 concerns on the proposed use of Tinian alone for infrastructure requirements, impact areas, fixed automated ranges, amphibious beach landings, and other military activities.

These include posing a "significant threat to corals, fish and wildlife" on Tinian, increased risk of introducing invasive species, limited access to important fishing areas that will increase fishing pressure on other available areas, and negative effects on tourist events and activities, including dive sites.

Impacts seen also include restricted access to important habitat areas for management-related activities, sudden infusion of different ethnic groups into the local community, restricted access to historic sites that could negatively affect tourism, disruption of commercial and non-commercial flights at the Tinian Airport, displacement of endangered and threatened species, and loss of available land for homesteads.

MIMC also wants the EIS to address waste control, including wastewater, solid waste, hazardous waste, and fuel storage.

On the proposed use of Pagan, MIMC listed at least 15 specific concerns, many of which are similar to those for Tinian.

MIMC said there are historical remnants yet to be identified on Pagan and have the potential to be damaged.

It also told the military that there may be a potential loss from being unable to develop a pozzolan industry on Pagan, and displacement of local residents of the island.

Recommendations

Inos's May 13 letter also listed separate recommendations for Pagan and Tinian.

These include conducting a study on the proposed restrictions on Tinian water space and airspace, and the impact of the closure of the Tinian leaseback lands on the island's cattle industry.

MIMC recommends a study to determine the proposed military activities' impacts on the Tinian Health Center in case of a major disaster.

MIMC also wants DoD to compensate local authorities and agencies for any services rendered, to include fuel for government vehicles during or after an incident or operation involving military personnel or units.

They want the EIS to identify for each proposed action alternative the Defense Access Route where troops, equipment and live ammunition will be in use, from Tinian harbor to the proposed training areas.

For Pagan, among MIMC's recommendations are the conduct of an independent geological study to determine the amount and quality of pozzolan on the volcanic island.

MIMC also asks that a feasibility study be conducted to determine the cost of building an airport suitable to sustain a public community of 500 people, including healthcare and education.

It also recommends DoD to determine a suitable location for a civilian population on Pagan, outside of its training grounds.

US military plans could speed up mining, eco-tourism on Pagan

»Cabrera: Pagan has at least $1B worth of pozzolan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said the U.S. Department of Defense's proposed live-fire training areas on Tinian and Pagan could speed up the CNMI's own plans to mine pozzolan and develop eco-tourism on Pagan between now and 2016, when the military is expected to decide on the matter.

Meanwhile, architect Herman B. Cabrera said in a position statement that Pagan pozzolan is worth at least $1 billion and is known to be the best type in the world.

Pozzolan, volcanic ash spewed on Pagan, is used as an additive to make cement.

The governor said if the military's planned use of Pagan for live-fire training will destroy the pozzolan deposits, the CNMI or its contractor might as well mine the pozzolan before that happens.

"It's for us to access it so that we can sell it or utilize it… For an area that might not be needed for the live-fire range, we could use that for eco-tourism sites. And if we can only agree on those things, we don't have to wait until after 2016 when it's time for them to make a decision because we need those resources now. We need to be doing something now," Inos told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview Friday.

The governor said there are now businesses seeking to develop eco-tourism on Pagan, wherein they will bring tourists through planes on the island. These businesses include those owned by Asian and Russian investors.

He pointed out that there could be a way for the civilian population and the military to "co-exist" on Pagan.

"Yes, if we can co-exist, then even better. Because I don't think they will be able to have everything and I don't think we can say 'don't do anything.' You can't have everything either. Perhaps a relationship wherein we can co-exist…that would be beneficial," Inos said.

The governor met with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas and Joint Region Marianas Rear Adm. Tilghman D. Payne in Guam on Thursday.

Inos said that meeting brought him up to speed with the military's plans for Pagan. He said he wasn't privy to many of the information DoD has, as many of the information were handled by his predecessor, former governor Benigno R. Fitial.

Thursday's Guam meeting also gave the governor an opportunity to share the CNMI's plans and concerns, especially for Pagan.

"Basically I wanted to know if we could do something in the interim in Pagan before they need anything. Looks like when they're finished with their EIS review by 2016, that's two years from now. So we need to figure out if there's anything we could do in the interim," he later told reporters.

He said the CNMI cannot just sit back and let Pagan's resources go to waste until the military decides on its plans.

"We also want to make sure whatever we do, we let them know so that it should be made part of their plans," Inos said.

Two-thirds of Tinian lands are leased by the U.S. military and portions of those lands are used for occasional military exercises. A new set of military plans involve live-fire training ranges on Tinian.

Pozzolan mining

Herman B. Cabrera, an architect, submitted a position paper on DoD's plans for Tinian and Pagan, which is some 180 nautical miles north of Saipan.

He said his firm was contracted by a California-based firm in 2011 to assess the feasibility of commercially harvesting the vast surface of pozzolan minerals on Pagan.

Cabrera said the Pagan pozzolan is known to be the best type among two other in the world because it does not contain sulphur and does not emit carbon dioxide during the process of making cement. He said this is advantageous in cement works.

"Besides the Pagan pozzolan commanding a minimum of at least (sic) $1 billion, Pagan has in great abundance other natural resources on land and sea," he said.

Depending on which data one looks at, the volume of pozzolan on Pagan is estimated to be anywhere from 32 million metric tons to 200 million metric tons.

"There is a probability that Pagan will pour more pozzolan in the future and more likely the island will increase in land size," he said.

Cabrera said Pagan pozzolan can be certified and marketed in countries such as China, Taiwan, India, Japan, the Philippines, and Indonesia.

Pagan can also be developed for eco- and heritage tourism. Research can also be conducted for small-scale geothermal power generation systems.

"If we do not fight hard for its preservation and from destruction by military warfare training activities, our future generation will never see Pagan Island the way it is now," he added.

He said Pagan is "priceless and we may lose it at any time in the future."

Cabrera also urged further review of the military plans' impacts on Pagan's environment, culture, social, economic and land ownership.

The governor, meanwhile, has yet to send a letter to President Barack Obama, initiating Covenant Section 902 talks on the military's plan to use Pagan, among other things.

'No to Pagan use'

Other private and public agencies and individuals have submitted comments on the military's plan.

Edward C. Deleon Guerrero, who attended the scoping meetings, said in his understanding, the U.S. military wants to use the entire island of Pagan "for 50 years" for full air, sea, and land amphibious training exercises.

"At the outset, I want to clearly state that I do not support the U.S. military's proposal to use the beautiful island of Pagan as the venue for their live-fire training exercises. This proposal is disastrous for the CNMI and cannot be seriously entertained for various reasons…" he said.

He said the use of Pagan for 50 years is not allowed under the NMI Constitution and statutes, which require that all public land leases in the CNMI should only be for up to 40 years.

"If the U.S. military wishes to lease the island for 50 years, the CNMI Constitution and accompanying enabling laws would need to be amended," he added.

Just like other commenters, Deleon Guerrero cited impacts on the natural environment.

He also said that the public scoping meeting is an "insult" to the CNMI because the military did not consult first with the CNMI government on its plans for Pagan.

'$1.2M gym needs to be functional by Sept. 2014'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System may lose over $1 million in federal grants from the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.'s community development block grant if the housing agency fails to see a complete and functional gymnasium by next year, according to Marylou S. Ada Friday.

The gymnasium project is part of the master plan for the proposed Koblerville Junior High School. Funding for the school project has yet to be identified but PSS has already been approved $1.2 million in CDBG funds to build the school's gymnasium.

Ada, who is the Board of Education's capital improvement project committee chair, disclosed that the CDBG funding is set to expire next year. The CDBG funding was approved in fiscal year 2012.

This means that PSS has to finish the construction of the gymnasium and make it fully operational by September 2014 or NMHC will be asked to return the money to the U.S. Treasury, Ada said.

"We were made aware by the housing corporation that we need to get going with this gymnasium project and we have one year to do it, otherwise we will lose this $1 million grant," Ada told her colleagues.

She is proposing the adoption of the layout plan for the Koblerville Junior High School to include the gym project.

Saipan Tribune learned that the proposed gymnasium will be located inside the new school, which will be built across the Coral Ocean Point Resort.

The facility will serve as a community gym and will have a field area of 95,750 square foot.

BOE chair Herman T. Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* that the board is aware of the federal funding deadline for the project and is committed to completing the facility on time.

On Friday, the board approved the construction of phase 1 of the project, which consists of covered ventilated courts, public men's and women's toilets, one NCWA-size basketball court, two basketball courts, two volleyball courts, six badminton courts, and an electronic scoreboard.

"Time is of the essence now and if we don't build those things, we will lose that window of opportunity," Guerrero said.

The other phases of the project—the funding of which is not assured yet—consists of the following: Phase 2 (conference room, storage room, players' locker rooms, restrooms; and Phase 3 (accessible bleachers for 600 people; players' dressing rooms; additional restrooms; and ventilation system).

According to Ada, a $235,000 architectural and engineering design contract has already been awarded, leaving $986,000 available for the construction of the gym.

The board also approved Friday the layout of the Koblerville Junior High School, which is patterned after the Chacha Oceanview Junior High School design.

Once built, this will address the overcrowding at Hopwood Junior High School. Approximately 600 students will be housed at the new school.

Up to this time, however, the land where the new middle school will be built remains owned by private individuals. Whether the government plans to acquire it for PSS or have it exchanged with other public lands, the BOE does not know.

Notice to MHS graduating class

Marianas High School graduating seniors are being informed that your cap, gown, and tassels are in and available for pick up at the Main Office! Distribution schedule is as follows:

- Last names A – C : May 16
- Last names D – J : May 17
- Last names K – M : May 20
- Last names N – S : May 21
- Last names T – Z : May 22

Pick up times will be 7:30am to 8:30am and 3pm to 4:30pm. Full payment is required for your orders to be released. If you are not able to pay by the specified date, make arrangements with Ms. Tudela by calling the Main Office at 237-3206. ***(PR)***

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Saturday, May 18th 9:00am - 1:00pm
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All interested patients should call Marianas Medical Clinic for scheduling
234-3925/7
Insurance accepted: AETNA and Medicaid

Jennifer Ross, BC-HIS
Board Certified in Hearing Instrument Sciences
Email: ross@guamcell.net

Pinoys on Saipan lament 'lack of choices' in midterm polls

A number of Filipinos interviewed by *Saipan Tribune* during the recent field voting conducted by the Philippine Consulate General in Guam said they were disappointed with the dearth of "worthy" senatorial candidates for the 2013 Philippine midterm elections.

Ana De Guzman, an employee of Pacific Oriental, Inc., said she only wrote 10 names for the 12 slots for senators because she could not find two other candidates worthy of her vote.

The 54-year-old Sta. Rosa, Laguna, native has been working in the CNMI since 1989. De Guzman, who lives Garapan, said that even choosing the 10 senatorial candidates was very hard but luckily some of the names had recall so she was able to pick 10 out of the 33 vying for office.

For the party-list representative, De Guzman said she opted for a party that will best push the interests of overseas contract workers.

Rolando Castro said he was able to vote for the full 12 candidates for senator but not without some hesitation.

Castro, who works at N15 Architects, said he was happy with half of the 12 candidates he voted for senator because majority of them have the experience and résumé to hold office. He, however, admitted that the other six are relative greenhorns in the political arena.

The 43-year-old Pangasinan native who has lived on Saipan the past six years said it always doesn't hurt to try new faces, especially in Philippines politics, which is marred by political dynasties and traditional politicians.

Castro voted for a well-known group for party-list representative.

Ronillo Ano also completed the 12-man slate for senators but even before entering the Kristo Rai Church social hall, where the field voting took place, he already promised himself to stay clear of traditional politicians.

The 49-year-old employee of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan said the country needs new blood in politics and it is his hope that the little gesture he made last Saturday would make a big difference in changing the Philippines' political climate.

Like De Guzman, Ano voted for a group that is affiliated with overseas foreign workers for sectoral representative.

Riza Oledan-Ramos, a nurse at the Commonwealth Health Center, echoed Ano's wish for the Philippines to rid itself of traditional politicians.

The 39-year-old native of Leyte said she managed to fill the 12 slots for senators but struck out from her list traditional politicians. The aspiring children's book author said she would rather take a chance with new candidates than again vote for politicians who have not done the country any good in the past.

Predictably, Oledan-Ramos voted for an organization that represents the interests of nurses as party-list representative.

Consul Edgar Tomas Q. Auxilian of the Philippine Consulate General in Guam told *Saipan Tribune* Saturday that they will immediately canvass the ballots from the three-day field voting on Saipan as well as absentee ballots sent by mail from the Commonwealth after the 9pm deadline for the 2013 Philippine mid-term elections.

It was earlier reported that a total of 710 ballots were cast in the field voting that started Thursday and ended Saturday. Accompanying Auxilian on Saipan were Francisco Magno and Allan Tangayan. The former served as the special ballot custody and reception group chair while the latter serves as his lone staff. Auxilian himself was the deputized special board of election chair.

Helping the three-man election team was a contingent of volunteers from the United Filipino Organization, led by president Annamae Adaza.

Aside from the field voting, the Philippine Consulate General in Guam also issued 330 new Philippines passports submitted for renewal months back, leaving only 70 unclaimed. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

KIYU BACK ON CPA BOARD OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Eloy S. Inos congratulates Thomas P. Villagomez, newly sworn-in member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors. Looking on is Villagomez's wife, Vicky. Inos administered the oath of office yesterday at the Office of the Governor.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Procurement and Delivery of Thirty (30) Proximity Fire Coats and Proximity Fire Pants for the Saipan International Airport
Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting (ARFF) Department
Project No. CPA-RFP-005-13

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting for sealed proposals for procurement and delivery of thirty (30) brand new Globe G-XCEL Proximity Jacket and thirty (30) Globe Proximity Fire Pants to the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Department at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all shipping and handling charges and taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract, including excise tax. Size information can be picked up at the CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the Saipan International Airport's Arrival Terminal. Additional details are as follows:

Globe G-XCEL Proximity Jacket
1. NFPA Compliant
2. Up to 32" Length
3. Seven (7) ounce PBI/Kevlar Aluminized Outer Shell
4. 82 Aralite NP Quilt Thermal Liner
5. CrossTech 2 Moisture Barrier
6. Zipper Inner Closure/Velcro Outer Closure
7. Dual Action Cargo Pockets, 9" x 9" with Hand Warmers
8. Self-Material Reinforced Elbows
9. PBI Hand and Wrist Guards
10. 13P Radio Pocket on Left Chest, 3" x 3.5" x 9" with Antenna Notch on Left Side
11. DRD Drag Rescue Device
12. Telescoping Cuffs
13. Action Back
14. Thermally Enhanced Upper Body and Elbows
15. 12" Throat Tab
16. All other standard features of the G-X-CEL
17. Up to Size 58

Globe Proximity Fire Pants
1. NFPA Compliant
2. Seven (7) Ounce PBIO/Kevlar Aluminized Outer Shell
3. 82 Aralite Thermal Liner
4. Stedair Moisture Barrier
5. 6" Back Bib
6. 2" x 10" x 10" Cargo Pockets
7. Expansion Knees
8. Flared Leg Design
9. Arashield Cuffs
10. Reverse Boot Cut
11. Replaceable Self Material Knees with Sewn on Frame
12. "H" Back Suspenders
13. Up to Size 58

CPA will not accept any substitutions to the specified jackets and pants. Proposers shall submit based on the specifications listed above only. Any proposals with substitutions will not be entertained.

One original and three copies of proposal must be in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description and submitted to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **4:30 p.m., Monday, June 10, 2013**.

The proposals shall include the following:

- Letter of Interest;
- Delivery timeframe;
- Cost Proposal (in itemized scope of work format);
- Valid CNMI Business License; and
- Proof of insurance.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals shall be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com by no later than Friday, May 24, 2013.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO Date: May 10, 2013
Executive Director

House OKs tax credit for firms that hire previously jobless US workers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To help prepare the CNMI for a mass exodus of foreign workers should the federalization transition period ends next year, the House of Representatives passed an amended bill giving tax credit for private businesses hiring previously unemployed U.S. citizens or U.S. permanent residents.

By a vote of 15-0, House Bill 18-21, House Draft 1 passed the House on Thursday. The bill now goes to the Senate.

If the bill becomes law, qualified employers could avail of a nonrefundable tax credit of $1,500 per worker against tax imposed on CNMI-sourced income.

The original proposal was a $2,500 tax credit per worker, but the House Ways and Means Committee recommended a reduction by $1,000.

Under the bill, introduced by House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), the proposed tax credit expires on Dec. 31, 2015.

The employee hired must be continuously employed by the employer for at least one tax year.

Sablan's original proposal required that the U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident be unemployed for more than six months so that the employer could qualify for the tax credit. This condition was removed in the bill that passed the House.

To obtain the nonrefundable credit, the employer must furnish the Division of Revenue and Taxation with a compliance letter for each employee from the Department of Labor, certifying that the employer complies with these provisions.

Under the amended bill, Labor shall impose a fee for the issuance of the compliance letter pursuant to their rules.

The bill expands on an existing U.S. law called the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment, or HIRE, Act, signed into law by Obama on March 18, 2010.

The HIRE Act provides two tax benefits to employers who hire previously unemployed workers-employers. They will are exempted from paying their 6.2 percent share of social security taxes, and for each worker retained for at least a year, a business may claim up to $1,000 per worker when they file their 2011 tax returns.

263 private streetlights now registered; 100-plus were removed from CUC grid

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 263 private streetlights are now registered with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., providing additional revenue for the agency.

CUC's Power Division also said yesterday it removed over a hundred unregistered streetlights on Saipan.

There are currently 5,000 streetlights on Saipan.

CUC will also be checking streetlights on Tinian and Rota.

For many years now, the cash-strapped utilities corporation has been incurring a significant amount in non-line technical losses—losses due to metering, meter reading, theft, customer information system, billing, and other back-office issues.

CUC disclosed that the fuel cost incurred by these unregistered streetlights gets passed on to its consumers.

CUC continues to encourage owners of private streetlights to come in and register them.

"To date, 263 have registered their streetlights. The cost of powering the streetlights will be tagged on to their monthly billing," CUC said in a statement yesterday.

CUC has deployed a team to conduct the island-wide assessment. The four-man crew identifies the location of the streetlight and verifies whether they are registered as government-owned or privately-owned. Streetlights that are not registered are disconnected and uninstalled.

In addition, the line crew is also performing necessary aesthetic adjustments for all streetlights to ensure that they are installed on every other pole starting from the intersection of each route.

There are two types of streetlights: government and private streetlights. Government streetlights are those that are intended to illuminate official government highways and roads and are registered and charged to the Department of Public Works. Private streetlights are all other lights that do not meet this requirement.

OPA denies appeal on DPW traffic signal project

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor denied Friday a procurement appeal that a losing bidder filed in the Saipan traffic signal upgrade project, which could pave the way for the estimated $1.225 million upgrade to begin.

OPA denied Maeda Pacific Corp.'s appeal of a Procurement and Supply Division decision awarding the contract to Radio.com.

Department of Public Works Secretary Martin Sablan said yesterday that DPW is ready to proceed with the project, now that OPA has already decided on the procurement appeal.

"We are just waiting for a formal letter from Procurement about OPA's decision. As soon as we get that notice, we can issue a notice to proceed to the contractor [Radio.com]," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Attorney Juan Lizama, counsel for Maeda, said he and his client have yet to reach a decision whether to appeal the decision in court.

"It looks like the OPA decision is arbitrary but there is no decision yet whether to appeal it. There is an ongoing discussion with the client," Lizama said.

Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) said that if his House Bill 18-59 becomes law, which precludes judicial review of OPA's decision related to procurement protests, then unnecessary delays could be prevented and projects could move forward faster than they currently do.

Isagani Salazar, an engineer at DPW, said Radio.com's bid was $1,225,002.

The project involves upgrading Saipan's 19 traffic light systems, some of which have not been properly functioning for a year now, including the traffic lights in front of DFS Galleria and ABC Stores in the tourist district of Garapan and the one by Saipan Ice in Lower Base.

Procurement and Supply director Herman Sablan denied Maeda's protest on Jan. 18. On Jan. 30, Maeda appealed with OPA.

Almost four months later, OPA made a decision to deny the appeal, saying that Radio.com was a responsible bidder, its bid was reasonable, and that Radio.com's failure to write in the amount of a line item price is not material since the amount actually bid is listed on the subject form numerically.

Deleon Guerrero also said the four-month waiting period before OPA decided on the procurement appeal is "too long."

"I hope future decisions on procurement protests and appeals won't take this long," said Deleon Guerrero, chairman of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications.

Maeda raised these same three issues it raised in its protest and asked that OPA sustain the appeal. These concerns are: Radio.com was not a responsible bidder, Radio.com's bid was unreasonable and should have been rejected, and Radiocom's bid should have been rejected for failure to fill out certain bid forms properly.

OPA's May 10 decision was prepared by legal counsel James W. Taylor and concurred by Public Auditor Mike Pai.

In its six-page decision, OPA noted that Maeda cited outdated regulatory sections in its protest and appeal. Nonetheless, there are applicable regulatory sections found in the CNMI Administrative Code and these regulations were cited in the appeal instead of the regulations that Maeda cited.

"Maeda has failed to provide evidence of fraud, bad faith, conflict of interest or bias that would be sufficient to challenge the responsibility decision at issue here," OPA said.

OPA also said Maeda objected that Radio.com's total price is too low but did not provide a valid basis or facts necessary to question the price evaluation of Radio.com's bid.

There are 21 traffic signals on Saipan, including the two new ones in Kagman and San Vicente that don't need an upgrade.

The 19 traffic signals were installed sometime in 1995 and their systems are now considered "obsolete" and some take time to be repaired because their parts are no longer available. Rather than spend on repairs, their systems would be upgraded instead, using federal funds.

Losing bidder in Marpi landfill project questions DPW criteria

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The company that lost its bid for the government's Marpi landfill project is questioning the criteria used by the Public Works Department in awarding the contract to Tang's Corp., claiming that the winning bidder submitted a considerably higher proposal and has no experience in operating and maintaining a sanitary landfill.

» 'Tang's Corp. bags contract despite higher proposal'

Guo Jun Miao, president and general manager of SARS Success International Corp., said that the bases DPW used to award the project to Tang's Corp. were questionable and must be justified in order for his company to understand the logic behind the decision.

SARS and Tang's Corp. are competing to operate and maintain the Marpi sanitary landfill. DPW earlier announced that the contract was won by Tang's Corp. at a cost of $2.1 million for three years, with the option to extend it for up to two more years.

Miao said that his company only learned of the decision through newspaper reports. On April 10, he filed a protest with the director of Procurement and Supply, Herman S. Sablan, enumerating his multiple concerns.

"We cannot comprehend the selection made by DPW considering that, being the current operator of the landfill for several months now, our firm demonstrated and proved that we exceeded agencies expectation to meet landfill operation and maintenance requirements," Miao stated in his protest letter, describing his company's proposal as "far superior" to that of Tang's Corporation.

SARS has been operating the landfill since September 2012. Miao claimed that throughout this period, not a single violation notice was issued to SARS. He is convinced that this was the sole reason why the company's contract was extended a few times. He pointed out that for all these extensions, the company won the bidding over Tang's Corp.

DPW Secretary Martin Sablan said yesterday that the selection of Tang's Corp. was based on the criteria included in the project's scope of work. He said that Tang's Corp.'s submission was so much more advantageous than SARS', which he said was never contracted by DPW to operate the landfill.

"The contract with SARS was only for equipment rental," he said.

He described the selection of Tang's as fair and sound for the government. The committee that made the selection process, which excluded Sablan, was composed of two DPW staff and one from the Division of Environmental Quality.

As for the cost, Sablan said that Tang's Corp.'s proposal was reasonable as it relates to the operation and maintenance of the landfill.

"The equipment that the company will use are bigger and more advanced and are suitable to the project," he added.

Sablan hopes for a favorable decision on the bid protest in order to move forward with the project.

Based on the "best and final offer" from SARS, the company proposed a $1.638 million cost for the project in three years—about $45,500 a month or $546,000 per year.

Miao said that their bid is 28 percent lower compared to Tang's Corp.'s proposal of $2.1 million for three years, or about $700,000 yearly. Savings to the government would be at $500,000 for three years if SARS was awarded the contract.

According to Miao, Tang's Corp. is a newcomer and has no experience in operating a landfill.

"Our proposal and hands-on knowledge to efficiently operate the landfill is a huge advantage over our closest competitor. We believe that our sound plan proposal and performance speak volumes of our capability compare to our competitor who does not have previous business experience related to landfill operation," according to Miao.

A decision on the protest will be known in 20 days, based on the notice Miao received from the Procurement Office.

"We trust that Procurement and Supply, OPA, the Attorney General's Office, concerned agencies and stakeholders will expeditiously address our concerns and correct the oversight in regards to RFP and that rightful decision be made in favor to our company for submitting the best and final offer for this project," according to Miao.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-CHC/CGS-103

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 11, 2013 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE CHE'CHU LALAHI PROGRAM FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION, COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER"

THE COMPLETE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS PROPOSAL SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO HERBERT J. SABLAN NO LATER THAN THE **CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MAY 31, 2013** BY FAX TO (670) 236-8766 OR EMAIL AT **herbert.sablan@gmail.com** RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE CNMI RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSALS IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BE COME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
INTERIM, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ROMEO G. DE JESUS, Petitioner,	]	**FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0588**
versus	]	**SUMMONS**
GERLIE V. BELAMIDE-DE JESUS, Respondent.	]	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOUR ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma Hustisia, Ilimwal Aweewee, House of Justice. P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 19th day of December, 2012

/s/Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

Ignacia T. Saures
P.O. Box 505727
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 235-0836/ 285-0836

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE GUARDIANSHIP OF: GUILLERMO L. SAURES An Incompetent,	]	**FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0180**
by:	]	
Ignacia T. Saures Petitioner	]	**NOTICE OF HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardianship for the above-named by Ingacia T. Saures, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before Kenneth L. Govendo on the 23rd day of May, 2013 at 10:30 A.M. or soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Annuncio - Arongorong
ANNOUNCEMENT

YOUR COMMENTS ARE MOST WELCOME:

VR FY - 2014 State Plan Goals

Goal 1. Deliver quality and timely services to applicants and consumers.

Goal 2. Serve as an advocate for individuals with disabilities.

Goal 3. Continue to work closely with the Workforce Investment Board to maintain and improve the best features of our workforce development system and to initiate efforts to integrate services for consumers.

Goal 4. Facilitate and ensure the seamless transition of students with disabilities to employment or continued education.

Goal 5. Maintain a comprehensive system of personnel development to ensure adequate qualified rehabilitation personnel.

Goal 6. Update of Policies and Procedures.

Margarita R. Olopai-Taitano
OVR Director

Isidro K. Seman
SRC Chairperson

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) in partnership with the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC), will be conducting statewide public forums for FY 2014 State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services and for the State Plan for Independent Living. YOU are ALL invited and encouraged to please participate in the scheduled public forums. The forums will provide opportunities for public comments on how well services are met and what need to be strengthened in our State Plans. Let us know how best the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation shall and should serve people with disabilities residing in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. What barriers exist that currently prevent our people with disabilities from getting or keeping a job? More importantly, recommend solutions to those barriers. Overall, how can OVR and our local communities work together to prepare, secure, and maintain employment and promote independence for and among eligible people with disabilities?

Community Forum on FY 2014 VR State Plan and State Plan for Independent Living

ROTA	TINIAN
May 15, 2013	**May 13, 2013**
Rota Mayor's Conference Room	Tinian Mayor's Conference Room
Time: 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm	**Time: 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm**

YOUR COMMENTS ARE MOST WELCOME:

FY - 2014 State Plan for Independent Living Goals

Goal 1. Increase the community's level of awareness of the independent living movement and individual and systems advocacy.

Goal 2. Enhance and expand the four core IL services (Information & Referral, IL skills training, Peer counseling, and systems advocacy); and transportation services in a manner that will maximize benefits to the greatest number of individuals with significant disabilities.

Goal 3. Serve as an advocate for individuals with disabilities.

Margarita R. Olopai-Taitano
OVR Director

Steve Dutro
SILC Chairperson

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION
If you require reasonable accommodation (e.g., large print, sign language interpreter) to participate in the public forums, please contact the OVR Council Liaison Elvira Seman at least 2 days before the scheduled forums. Copies of the plans can be accessed at the OVR website or obtain copies at the OVR Main Office at Navy Hill Bldg. N-2.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
TEL: 322-6537/8 TTY: 322-6449 FAX: 322-6536
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Consul Auxilian visits injured PH worker

An injured Filipino worker who has requested to be medically repatriated to his home country had a very welcome guest Friday night at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Consul Edgar Tomas Q. Auxilian from the Philippine Consulate General in Guam visited Marwin Corpuz about 6:45pm on March 10 and assured the longtime CNMI alien worker that they are doing their best to bring him back home to the Philippines.

In fact, the Philippine Consulate in Guam has already endorsed Corpuz's request for medical repatriation to the Office of Migrant Workers Affairs under the Department of Foreign Affairs, said Auxilian in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* Saturday afternoon.

"It's all up to Manila now," said Auxilian, adding that he hopes by the time he goes back to work at the consulate general's office in Agana yesterday, they will already have an update from DFA and OMWA about Corpuz's request.

He said the endorsed letter to the two Philippines agencies included the estimated cost ($8,000) of Corpuz's airfare to Manila and other associated expenses like ambulance service to and from the hospital and airport on Saipan as well as a airplane seat for the nurse who will accompany him to the Philippines.

It was earlier reported that because he could not sit down, Corpuz needs four airline seats to accommodate the bed he will be lying on during the trip to Manila.

Auxilian said the Philippine Consulate General in Guam has kept tabs on Corpuz's case a week after his unfortunate accident but immediate action has been tied down by procedures.

"As early as the first week of April when we read his plight in the news we already forwarded Marwin's request for repatriation to Manila. [But] a lot of information was needed to be cleared first, including whether the hospital would release him, which we found was OK. We also needed to find out if he is an OWWA [Overseas Workers Welfare Administration] member, which unfortunately he is not. Just the same, even if he isn't an OWWA member, we still forwarded the request to DFA so that his case will be given appropriate action. But what Marwin really needs is for his family back home to be the one to contact DFA, particularly the Office of Migrant Workers Affairs, to formally file the request for medical repatriation," he added.

Auxilian said the help of Corpuz's relatives back home is very important because, as it stands, DFA is already swamped with other issues.

With the number of contract workers needing to be repatriated from war-torn countries like Syria and more dangerous places, he said Corpuz's case may not be given appropriate attention without someone back home making the request personally.

"But the Philippine consulate in Guam is still looking at the matter and is giving him our full attention. We're also thankful for the United Filipino Organization's help, especially to president Annamae Adaza, in coordinating Marwin's case and for sending us documents and other information about him," he said.

Auxilian praised Filipinos on Saipan who, despite being away from home, have not forgotten their roots, especially the Filipino trait of helping one another.

"I'm very thankful for the initiatives of our *kababayans* here who have gone out of their way to help Marwin. I really admire the *bayanihan* spirit which is alive here in the CNMI. They've really given a big sacrifice. At least we can still see that Filipinos here are able and willing to help their countrymen."

Accompanying Auxilian during Friday's CHC visit were Adaza and two other UFO officers, Paul Madriaga and Anna De Guzman.

Corpuz is an employee of the Saipan Oceanview Hotel. He has been on Saipan since 1992 and has worked as waitsfaff for Raponggi and Palace of Saipan in the past.

Last March 26, Corpuz fell from the third floor of a friend's apartment to the ground floor. He was there to help his friend move to the apartment. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Philippine Consulate General Consul Edgar Tomas Q. Auxilian, standing rightmost, is joined by United Filipino Organization's Annamae Adaza, Paul Madriaga, and Anna De Guzman during their visit Friday at the bedside of Marwin Corpuz.

'Show that only Marianas fruit bats are on Rota'

The lawyer for Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) has asked the federal court to compel the U.S. government to produce, among other things, any information showing that *Pteropus mariannus mariannus* is the only bat found on Rota.

In a motion to compel discovery filed on Wednesday, attorney Bruce Berline requested the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order the prosecution to disclose all information available showing knowledge of any bats or subspecies of bat living or having lived on Rota other than *Pteropus mariannus mariannus*.

The U.S. government charged the senator in one case with conspiring to violate the Endangered Species and Lacey Acts, one count of violating the Endangered Species Act, and one count of violating the Lacey Act.

The indictment alleged that on Oct. 17, 2010, Ayuyu and Ryan Manglona conspired to conceal eight dead Mariana fruit bats (*Pteropus mariannus mariannus*) underneath 40 lbs of lemons inside a cardboard box in an attempt to transport the box to Saipan on a Freedom Air flight.

Pteropus mariannus mariannus are a bat subspecies protected by federal law.

Guam-based lawyer David J. Lujan is counsel for Ayuyu's two other criminal cases.

Ayuyu, 48, has been in detention since Dec. 17, 2012. His trials have been moved several times. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Widow gets probation in ID doc case

The federal court has imposed a 12-month probation sentence on a widow who helped a friend fill out a false statement in the application for the child's birth certificate.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Friday also ordered Yufeng Lin, also known as Mary Lin, to perform 100 hours of community service and pay a $100 special assessment fee.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton and defense counsel David Banes both recommended a one-year probation sentence.

The indictment charged Lin and Xiuqin Weng, both Chinese nationals, with one count of unlawful production of identification document.

Lin pleaded guilty as part of a plea deal.

Lin offers translation and document preparation services to Chinese women who come to Saipan to give birth.

Weng gave birth to a boy on Saipan on March 17, 2012. When helping Weng fill out the application for the child's birth certificate, Lin advised Weng to lie and state that she was not married, in the belief that doing so would make it easier to obtain the child's U.S. passport.

With Lin's assistance, Weng applied for a birth certificate for the child on March 19, 2012. In that application, Weng stated that she was not married.

As a result, the CNMI Vital Statistics Office produced for the child a birth certificate with false and incorrect information, showing "not stated" for the father's name.

According to Banes, Lin has no criminal history and she cooperated extensively with the U.S. government and performed her investigation on Chinese websites related to the CNMI "birthing tourism."

Banes said that Lin committed this crime not only for money but to help a friend. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 14, 2004

7-month revenue only at $107M

The CNMI government collected only $107.3 million in the first seven months of fiscal year 2004, making it impossible for the Babauta administration to justify its proposed $226 million budget for fiscal year 2005. In a report submitted by the Department of Finance covering the period from October 2003 to April 30, 2004, the total collection of the government amounted to only $107.32 million, which is way below the $213 million projected by the department for the entire fiscal year. According to House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, the House leadership is currently holding a series of meetings with Finance Secretary Fermin Atalig and other officials to look into the revenue resources of the government as part of the ongoing discussion on the proposed 2005 budget proposal.

RP govt to submit stance on NMI labor bill

The Philippine government will be coming out with its official position on the proposed legislative measure in the CNMI that seeks to significantly amend the law governing alien workers. The Philippine Consulate General on Saipan also echoed the concerns raised by many Filipino workers on the bill's provisions that practically eliminate employment transfers by alien workers whose work contracts expire. The Philippine Overseas Labor Office on Saipan has transmitted a copy of the proposed measure to the Asian country's Department of Labor and Employment, which will look into the bill's provisions and submit its comments to CNMI House of Representatives.

May 14, 2005

$60M for power plant repair

Some $60 million would be needed to upgrade the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s main power plants in Lower Base, according to the Harris Group. In a presentation at the Legislature yesterday, Harris Group vice president Dennis Swann said that regardless of who operates the power plants, $60 million would be needed to fix the rundown power plants' facilities and ensure efficient operations. "I'm astounded every time I come here and see that the machines are still running. The thing is, you can't continue the way you are now. Something must be done to fix it," said Swann.

MVA's $1M marketing contract out for bid

The Marianas Visitors Authority has started seeking proposals from companies interested in handling MVA's marketing and promotional campaign in Japan. This comes in view of the Sept. 30, 2005 expiration of MVA's contract with Marketing Garden Ltd., which currently represents the CNMI tourism agency in the Japan market. In its request for proposal, MVA set a budget of $1 million for the first year of the contract period, which will run from Oct. 1, 2005 through Sept. 30, 2006. The contract may be renewed for an additional two years.

May 14, 2006

Fund: Call it repayment, not writeoff

If the Fitial administration's writeoff bill would not result in the nonpayment of retirement benefits, then it should propose a repayment scheme, not debt forgiveness, said an official of the NMI Retirement Fund. "If what they are saying now is true, then call it a repayment plan, not a writeoff. What they are proposing in the bill is a writeoff. That's different," said Fund board chair Joseph Reyes in an interview. The administration said on Friday that its proposals to write off the $124 million unfunded liability, suspend employer contribution, and to require the Fund to loan $40 million to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would not result in the nonpayment of pension and other retirement benefits.

'March' raises over $90K despite odds

Although this year's organizing committee managed to attract only 15 teams for the 4th Annual Marianas March Against Cancer on Friday, the event still pulled in a whopping $92,250.53-some $32,000 higher than the $60,000 goal. According to committee chair Tricia Tudela, the steering committee is overwhelmed with the amount they managed to raise during the event, which started Friday night and ended at 6am yesterday. Tudela said they could not ask for more other than to thank the people, the business community and the local government for making the event wildly successful. "Despite the short turnout of teams that participated this year, we were still surprised to find out that we have exceeded our $60,000 target and managed to make the most money," she said. The committee had targeted 20 teams.

Island Snapshots

PRAYERS FOR PEACE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and former Saipan resident Ayako Matsumoto offer flowers during the Nenpou Shinkyo Buddhist Denomination's prayer service at the Japanese Peace Memorial in Marpi last Sunday.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Japan Consul Koji Hino offers flowers during the Nenpou Shinkyo Buddhist Denomination's prayer service at the Japanese Peace Memorial in Marpi last Sunday.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Gov. Eloy S. Inos extends his thanks the Nenpou Shinkyo Buddhist Denomination and its high priest reverend Ryoku Okeya for once again visiting the islands and praying for peace during his remarks after the group's prayer service at the Japanese Peace Memorial in Marpi last Sunday. To Inos' left is former Saipan resident Ayako Matsumoto who served as translator.

FIELD VOTING SAIPAN TRIBUNE

United Filipino Organization officer Flor Miranda casts her vote Thursday during the first day of the three-day field voting for the 2012 Philippine mid-term elections conducted by the Philippine Consulate General in Guam at the Kristo Rai Church social hall. Looking on are Consul Edgar Tomas Q. Auxilian, second from left; special ballot custody and reception group chair Francisco Magno, third from right; and other UFO volunteers.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

A total of 710 ballots were cast during the Philippine Consulate General in Guam's field voting on Saipan held from May 9 to 11 at the Kristo Rai Church social hall.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

A UFO volunteer helps voters cast their ballots on Day 3 of the Philippine Consulate General in Guam's field voting at the Kristo Rai Church social hall last Saturday.

LA FIESTA CLEANUP HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson uses a shovel to help clean up the former La Fiesta Mall's surroundings in San Roque on Friday as part of the Inos administration's tourism task force efforts.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider uses a machete to cut down unwanted vegetation that has claimed the surroundings of the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque. Friday's cleanup that Hofschneider and Gov. Eloy S. Inos led revealed the grandeur of what was once the only open-air shopping center of its kind in the CNMI.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Lani Tarope, left, and a fellow Workforce Investment Agency intern, take a break from the La Fiesta Mall cleanup.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Vicky Villagomez, the governor's special adviser for management and budget, and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider do their part to clean up the front area of the former La Fiesta Mall.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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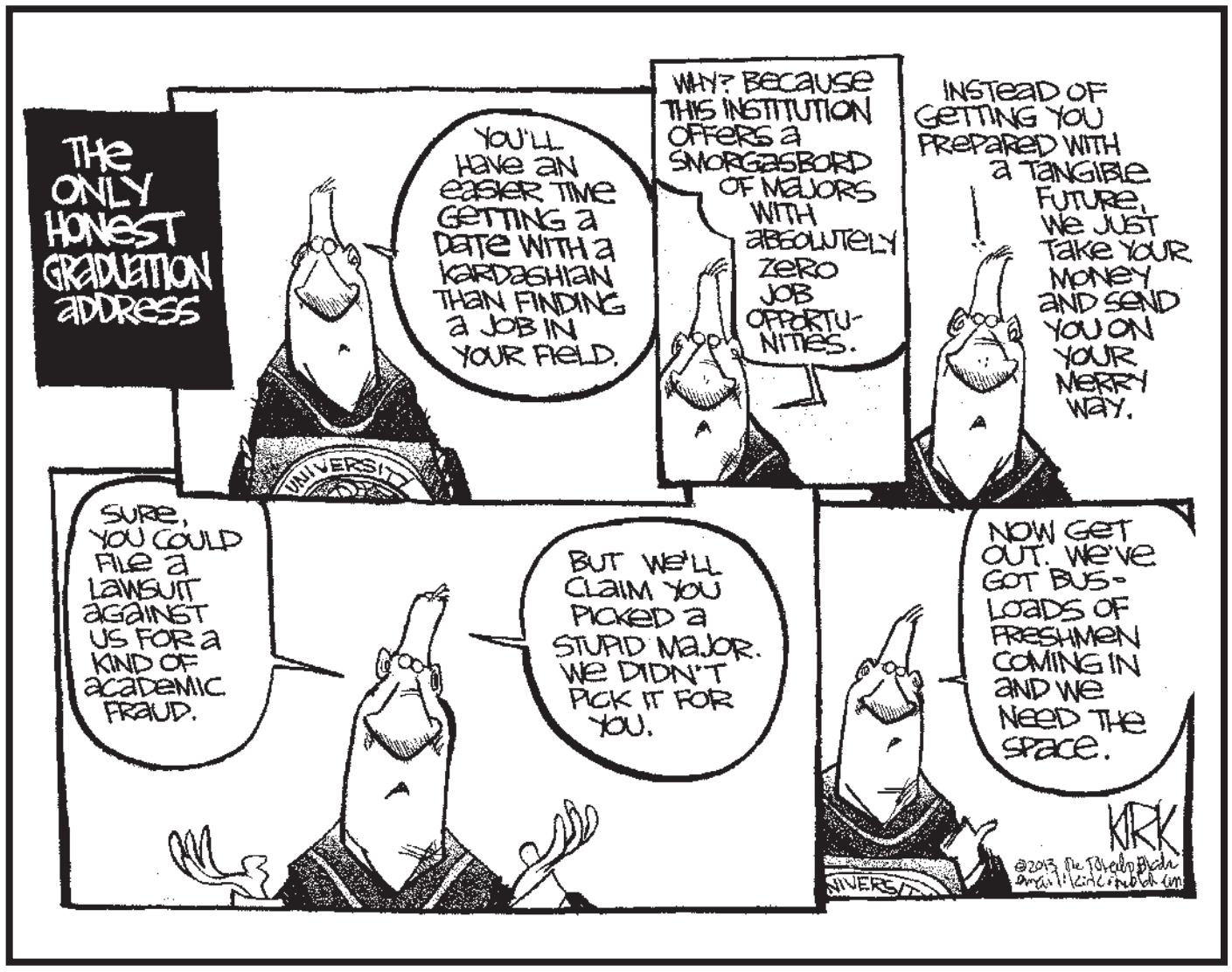

THE ONLY HONEST GRADUATION ADDRESS
YOU'LL HAVE AN EASIER TIME GETTING A DATE WITH A KARDASHIAN THAN FINDING A JOB IN YOUR FIELD.
WHY? BECAUSE THIS INSTITUTION OFFERS A SMORGASBORD OF MAJORS WITH ABSOLUTELY ZERO JOB OPPORTUNITIES.
INSTEAD OF GETTING YOU PREPARED WITH A TANGIBLE FUTURE, WE JUST TAKE YOUR MONEY AND SEND YOU ON YOUR MERRY WAY.
SURE, YOU COULD FILE A LAWSUIT AGAINST US FOR A KIND OF ACADEMIC FRAUD.
BUT WE'LL CLAIM YOU PICKED A STUPID MAJOR. WE DIDN'T PICK IT FOR YOU.
NOW GET OUT. WE'VE GOT BUSLOADS OF FRESHMEN COMING IN AND WE NEED THE SPACE.
KIRK

By RUSS MASON, M.S.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

For the better part of a decade, Russ Mason wrote for a medical journal, Alternative & Complementary Therapies. *His principal assignment was to interview a physician or other health care practitioner about new and important treatments, as well as diet and nutrition. Prior to that, he worked at NBC in New York for 16 years, often as a writer for their television programs.*

Health update

I ought to be more realistic. I say this, because, despite my efforts to warn people against the dangers of sugar, processed meat, chewing betel nut, and eating white food (rice, bread, pasta) people will do whatever pleases them.

It's a bit naïve of me to think that someone will actually stop unhealthy habits because of something they read in the newspaper. But you never know!

I guess what troubles me most is that kids are routinely poisoned with sugar every day, either in soda or candy or other things that taste sweet and good. Even though sugar contributes to a wide variety of diseases, the FDA won't ban it because it doesn't kill you right away. The kids have no idea how bad it is for them, and my hope is that their parents will guide them into healthier choices.

Aspartame, which is in most diet drinks, is another hazard, and is even more dangerous than sugar or high-fructose corn syrup. Drinking a diet soda contributes to obesity more than sugar does. Aspartame will damage your also brain. Visit aspartame.mercola.com and read what it says: aspartame is the most deadly additive in the world.

Never ever use the little packets of sweeteners you see in some coffee shops. They are deadly poison, but, like sugar, won't kill you right away.

As of now, the only safe beverages are water, tea (plain), coffee (black), milk, and some vegetable juices (check the label for added salt). There are some plain and flavored carbonated waters available, such as Perrier, but I haven't seen them in the stores recently. They are also safe.

■ ■ ■

Lately, in my travels, I have met people who stop me to mention an article I have written, and that it was helpful to them. Using ginger tea to stop a cold has worked for many, but it wasn't my idea. It's part of traditional Chinese medicine, but most Westerners have never heard of it.

Ginger is also helpful with those who suffer from arthritis pain. That is because it is an anti-inflammatory; and if you suffer from arthritis, it is because your joints have become inflamed. Ginger tea may help alleviate the pain.

Other remedies for arthritis are supplements, MSM, Glucosamine and Chondroitin. If you take these every day, and drink some ginger tea, your arthritis pain may be alleviated.

My good friend Joe
Has gout in his Toe!
Poor Joe!

Another affliction around here is gout, which is a form of arthritis. Usually it appears as sharp pain in the big toe. An uncommon but effective remedy is Tart Cherry Extract. It will reduce the pain within a day. Search for it online and you will find some in capsule form. I can't tell you how many people who have been helped with this simple remedy. And it far safer than taking some medications, as there are no side-effects or adverse reac-

See HEALTH on Next Page

Sports' Day SAU

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara is an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church and was pastor of Saipan Immanuel UMC at the second millenium's turn. He now writes from China.

It is part of the spring ritual, the two-day sports' fest at Shenyang Aerospace University, definitely more than the roar at the end of the 100-meter dash, a happy contrast to our days at SVES.

Scheduled Friday classes were suspended as freshies and sophies, not cynical yet about the promise of university existence, attended the Friday events. (Juniors and the seniors buried their noses on review materials, presciently certain but skeptically resigned that the effort to pass another standardized test is just not worth the while but had to be borne anyway.)

My classes suffered in attendance for two weeks as many of the performers, athletes, and cheerleaders asked for leave to practice their demonstration of precision, stamina, speed, and grace. The two-week morning-to-afternoon stretching at the stadium moved to the basketball court outside of my dorm in the evening as students mastered their routines. I became a waving acquaintance to my students!

The track-and-field trials were conducted Friday so the newbies limbered up to flex their fresh enthusiasm, while the vets condescendingly endured the day, being there to qualify for the finals.

The opening ceremony was on the second day when students who survived the Friday "trials" were primed for the finals. The vets retained "face."

Standard events of throwing, sprints, races, and jumps were run. I did not see any javelin or hammer thrown, but the shut put and the discus were. There were no hurdles, but both male and female sprinters were abundant. The races were actually dismissible. Unless there was an upstart among the newbies, the vets ruled the day, often ahead of the competition by 20 paces in the long distance runs. The high jump was well cheered, but there were no wowing pole vaults.

The Saturday spectacle, however, in contrast to Friday, was not for the athletes. It was clearly for show to a larger audience, specially the guests who graced the presidential table. Though not on live TV, the performers, nevertheless, acted as if the whole world was watching.

Or, maybe it was. It is a techie university, and hovering above the crowd during the ceremony was a mini 4-whirl-and-twirl contraption, like four toy helicopters together, lifting a platform that carried what could be a videocam to livecast the proceedings. It could very well have been a streaming webcast!

The opening parade into the stadium welcomed personnel who looked like they staffed the jets at China's aircraft carrier *Lianong*. The sole carrier in China's navy was the subject of all the five floats during the parade. Cadets were in dark jumpsuits.

It was the non-sports (though no less athletic) content of the event that was memorable. The parade was a show of precision marching I've only seen in Beijing. Well, almost. Our haggard foreign student contingent marched in with nary a semblance of alignment, but they enthusiastically waved their miniature national flags.

Predominantly African and Indo-Chinese-Malay, dabbed a lighter shade from South Korea, they were dressed in diverse native costumes, a distinct "discontinuity" in the uniformly orchestrated event.

The rest of the marching groups were dressed sports-smart, filed in cadence, and goose-stepped when they were in front of the dignitaries' reviewing stand.

The parade-in-review included non-student groups like the librarians and the maintenance crew, campus police and administrators. Air Force officers previously trained at SAU were bused in for the occasion. By the time the last group marched in, the *Qilai* (national anthem) and the Olympic themes played, my hour-long camera battery gave out. The event's timing was impeccable.

The waving sea of colors was unavoidable. Students waving red flags inside the oval in movements reminiscent of the crisp and decisive moves of the East-is-Red era, was dear to the nostalgic elders in the crowd. Calisthenics was skillfully displayed in various forms: from the Dallas Cowboys-like cheerleader wannabe sensual gymnastic swings in scanty shorts, to the pairs in Bolshoi tutus pirouetting expertly on the field, also, the red-adorned dainty Shanghai ladies upgrading their coquettish coyness with finger and hip moves, and finally, the tug-of-war antics of the elders whose efforts blared with the theme to the movie *Magnificent Seven*, aka, the Marlboro man music.

Notable among the races was a 400-meter run with four guys holding a pole they carried in measured cadence and speed. Then there was the tent-on-a-duffel-bag relay. The race transpired while students performed mid-field a stunning tri-color fan dance.

Earlier during the week, foreign students practiced martial arts with poles, but their *kung fu* mentors evidently judged their quality not up to par for public performance; the foreign students' contribution for the day was a single pole *kung fu* demo, and a farcical sword-pole "dance." A conservatively attired female student on lengthy muslin was, however, lifted at the finalé brandishing a drawn sword that got the audience's standing ovation. Across the way, cadets in uniform shaped their seated formation in an "I heart U" symbol.

I quietly gave the traditional deep bow of respect for the crowd's charitable tolerance.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Man-magraduan Famaguon-ta

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Entalu' pagu yan otru mes, i famaguonta u fan matcha seremoñas graduasion gi high school siha guine yan kolehu. Congratulations! Huñgan selebra i okasion sa' in' fachuchu'e.

Hu tuñgu' lokue' na dispues de todu i selebrasion, un' fatachoñg namaisa ya un' atan haye mohon siña umemplea hau bes enkuando. Un' atan haf' na cho'chu mangaige ya un' akompara yan edukasion-mu, espesifikamiente kau prinipara hau ni sisteman edukasion para un' fana' i diberas na rimulinon linala' gi hiyuñg kampon eskuela.

Cha'mu diniskonsuesuela lau dudayu' kau ensegidas un' ma-emplea. I kompania siha siempre u fan man-aligau mangai talentu na empleau. Lau kau i manesessita na kualifikasion gaige gi papa' sinturon-mu? Yangin taigue pues siempre un' ma-upus.

I problema ni fumalulon hau ti isau-mu. Gaige lamayot patte ennau gi sisteman edukasion guine. Debi ta fan adiñgan yan i board of edukasion yan NMC board of regents pot para ta abisa siha na i sige tume'ug na disfuñgsion sistema debi uma-aregla. Listu-yu' yan 'nos kuantos man-edukau na tautau-ta umekstende kanai mame.

Lau maseha haf' masusede, ti bai' puni umekstende un' sinsiyu na congratulations para todu famaguonta ni muna' fonhayan estudiun niha. Si Iku.

Man-ñahlalañg

Gi uttimon siñkuenta na sakan dispues de seremoñias, mamila i mañaina yan bisita siha magu'ot kanai man-magradua siha yan magof na "congratulations".

Un' amku' ti seguru haf' masasañgan ni pumalu 'an magu'ot kanai famaguon niha. Lau ti sumeha fumila ya 'nai mattu gi lahiña ilegña, "Graduation!"

■ ■ ■

Otru mes, kuarenta'i siñku años deste ke man-matcha in Class of 1968 huyuñg ginen katedrat. Ti sen felis tutuhon mame sa' prinensa Saipan as Typhoon Jean. Destrosiau yan homhum esta sais mesis tanu'.

Ai na tinituhon. Mauleg na ensegidas makone'yu' gi hagas KJQR Radio 'sino mañufa'yu' yan tropan DPW man-lofan materiat 18 oras gi ha'ane. Makat na tiru sa' mayotmente gi hagas hinatsan guma' man-binegbog atuf niha.

Pot primet biahe hu li'e i putionn gi lañget antes de bai' losus. Tat ti homhum gi enteru i señgsoñg. I ekun mattiyu sinpara esta ennau las kuatru gi chatagamag. Animu magahet i familia siha humatsa tatte 'an yamag pagyu.

■ ■ ■

Si Ti'un Samuet

Para i destrosiu ni yinilulog Jean, mauleg na gaige si Ti'uta Samuet ya ensegidas ha lofan halom i militat ya ma-hatsa kusina siha gi todu plasan eskuela.

Diariu lokue' finatton ruplanu ya ha deskatga difirientes mineduñg yinireta', tento', mantension kusina, todu klasen trastes ni man-patte tautau gi señgsoñg siha.

Kumu taigue si Ti'un Samuet, muñga sa' an' soblan yori' yan tabi' ta usune mientras kababales ta hotma trastes peska. De dios mihu.

Hu keketuñgu' agun haye muna' bubu si Jean na ha lachai hit lumatigasu sin ineskohen man-namase'. Megai gi entre hita kulan naofragu gi hilu' achu' alutuñg gi kanton kantit. Ni lasu gi halom fotten somnag 'nai sige hit manhaguñg pulonun. A` Saina!

■ ■ ■

Siso' Amaka

Hu konsidedera i tiempu ni ha sablasus hit i pagyu. Haf' na tita espiha humafot i alamlen kandet gi papa' tanu'? Kada mattiempu manponduñg, kada manpoduñg ta hatsa kulan mohon naturat na eksisiu.

Lau gi mismu tiempu ta konfifitma na dehemunos hit planu kumu ta rikokohe gi finu' tata-hu i "gring" (green). Seguru-yu' na kumu kalaguag-ta 'nai mahahala apas troñkun yan alamlen tilifon fuetsau ta hafot i alamlen kandet gi papa' tanu.

Deste guma' antigu, saguale, yan sin esta guatu gi gima' padet. Ta soda' dispues na mamps maipe i padet sin air-condition. Ta atileg muna' on lau gi mismu tiempu uma'adulalag yan papet pagamientu guatu gi CUC. Sige ta labla sekosta gi maseha haye ta soda'. Man-malefa hit na hita muna' on i air-con pot manso-sosgun hit masahalom.

■ ■ ■

Esta hana' chaleg-yu' un' prohimu ni sumañgan, "Antes 'an matai i kandet, ma'añau-yu'. Pa'gu, 'an mañila' i kandet masyu' ma'añau!"

■ ■ ■

I gaston kandet ti umaribaha para la anaku' na tiempu. I otru siha modun elektrisida trabiha ti appruebau gi halom tanu' pagyu. Kase siñku años ta'lu na tiempu antes de u fotmat ma-espiha usun minaipen tanu' gi entalu' liyañg achu' siha gi papa' tano'ta. Este solu sina rumibaha gaston kandet. Tinaka' tiempu estake u fattu este mage giya Marianas.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Not in the CNMI's best interest

There have been several headlines about companies proposing alternate power sources such as wind and solar. One is proposing to provide solar and wind generated power for $200 million. They also stated that the rate will be at $0.27 per kilowatt-hour. CUC is currently charging $0.32 per kilowatt-hour. How did they arrive at $0.27 per kilowatt-hour?

It is reported that a total of 40 megawatts of power will be generated consisting of 30 megawatts from wind and 10 megawatts from photovoltaic. How are these values arrived at? Is there a study done? I am not sure if there is a steady and of the right stream of wind in the CNMI that can produce 30 megawatts. Do these companies have experience in power generation?

Another question: Why is the development of an industrial park at Lower Base an integral part of a proposal for alternate power generation? Specifically, what does the development of a dry dock facility that will require the relocation of the existing power plant have to do with power generation? Why is it necessary to do this when the proposal is for wind and solar generated power? And by the way, it is reported that 1,000 jobs will be developed as a result of a dry dock facility. How is this number arrived at? There is a dry dock facility in Guam and I am told that at peak load, all that is needed is about 250 workers. Again, how was the 1,000 workers arrived at?

Incidentally, Allegiance Capital Corp. has talked about the dry dock facility for several years now. Have they taken the time to look at what would be required to set up the dry dock? One obvious item is the channel that will need to be extended and dredged. Is this possible? We did the permitting for the expansion and dredging of the turning basin when the Saipan harbor was last improved and we were limited in what we could do due to World War II artifacts and marine life located in the area. This would be the very same area that one would need to extend the channel and dredge to allow for ships to enter the dry dock facility.

The permitting to extend and deepen the channel is a formidable project in itself. Federal government permits such as from EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers are just a few of the permits that will be required. What about the Fish and Wildlife permit? For sure it will take several years, possibly 10 years, and the permit may never be issued. Companies making statements about a dry dock facility should provide concrete plans including permitting requirements and how they are to be obtained.

The CNMI should not enter into any agreement without first obtaining plans backed up by data. $190 million or $200 million is something the CNMI does not have. If a company does not have the capital to do the project, then they have no business making proposals.

Lastly, can we be provided with data about wind and solar power generation capabilities specifically in the CNMI? By the way, shouldn't these companies be meeting with CUC first as CUC after all is the utility company of the CNMI? They then can provide support for the government so that informed decisions can be made.

We do need alternate power sources to ease the heavy load on our shoulders. However, we do need to be cautious and only accept what is realistic and from reliable people. This is the time to ask all the questions and to obtain detailed plans supported by data. A serious investor will take the time to conduct studies such as feasibility and financing to weigh the risk vs. return. Obtaining first a signed agreement with the CMNI as a condition to move forward is not in the interest of the CNMI.

Efrain F. Camacho
Navy Hill, Saipan

Thank you for early childhood programs and ARC

The parents of the Chalan Kanoa Head Start Center wish to thank Rose Castro and assistant Robert for the EFNEP Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program for the training sessions held May 11, 2013, at the WSR School cafeteria. This program gives youth and families with young children opportunities to learn about food and how to get more for your money at the grocery store. Parents were given practical training on how to prepare nutritious meals and how to keep stored food safe.

CK Head Start would also like to thank the management, staff, and volunteers of the American Red Cross for the valuable Emergency Preparedness Training that included printed materials and emergency supplies and kits. Your work in the CNMI is essential as a part of our daily lives and in times of emergencies.

Finally, this is an official thank you (as discussed by parents in our recent trainings) to the Head Start and other Early Childhood managers, staff, and teachers for their unending efforts and being there during off duty times to follow up and volunteer in early childhood and family events. Your programs and events prepare our children and families for a better future in our highly competitive world.

Parent Involvement Committee
CK Head Start Center

HEALTH

From Page 10

tions with Tart Cherry. You can find it on the Internet; most vitamin sites carry it.

Update on baking soda and cancer

Some months ago I wrote that baking soda was a good cancer preventative, since it raised pH of the blood and body, and that most diseases thrive in an acidic environment. This is correct.

In my ongoing research about this I have learned some new facts, and these are important. In fact, they may be lifesaving.

First, commercial baking sodas contain aluminum. That is what is generally believed in the scientific community, despite these products' protests. Still, it is a fine alkalizer and safe to drink in a glass of water.

However, most of the people who use baking soda for therapeutic purposes recommend "Bob's Red Mill Baking Soda – Aluminum Free." I don't believe it is available in the Commonwealth, but you can find it on the Internet, and many vitamin sites carry it. It costs about $4 for a one-lb bag.

Here is a wonderful (possible) remedy for cancer. Some regard it as "natural chemotherapy."

You will need some of Bob's baking soda and some 100-percent pure maple syrup. This is the real stuff, not maple-flavored Aunt Jemima or other brands you find on grocery shelves. It must be 100-percent pure maple syrup. Yes, it's a little expensive. I am informed that pure honey is a good substitute, but all of the success stories are about maple syrup and aluminum-free baking soda.

What most people have done to cure cancer is to put 3 teaspoons of maple syrup into a small pan and warm it gently on the stove. Make sure it does not boil or burn, but only becomes very warm. Add one teaspoon of Bob's baking soda and stir for about five minutes, until the syrup and the baking soda are all mixed together. Let it cool. Then take 1 teaspoon of this mixture per day.

Another method is to heat some water, but not to a boil, and pour it into a coffee mug. Add 1 tsp of Bob's baking soda, and then 3 tsp of maple syrup. When it's cool enough, drink one-third and save the rest.

How can this possibly cure cancer?

It has been hypothesized that within every cancer is Candida, a fungus, which 80 percent of us have in our bodies. Cancer and Candida cells gobble sugar at a rate 15 times greater than healthy cells. With the above mixture, the maple syrup acts as a Trojan horse, carrying in the highly alkaline baking soda, which is deadly to cancer and Candida cells. The baking soda kills them instantly.

You are probably skeptical about this, and I was too. I encourage you to do a Web search on "maple syrup and baking soda." You will be amazed at what you read. There are a few naysayers, but more than likely they work for the pharmaceutical industry (who would ban Vitamin C if they could).

Some people insist on published scientific data, reports from clinical trials that the above has been verified by research scientists in a controlled setting. It will never happen. Who would pay for an expensive clinical trial? Bob? The maple syrup producers? This kind of home remedy is a threat to conventional medicine, to the FDA and to the pharmaceutical companies. If it works, then great. If it doesn't work, then you have spent about 10 bucks. I tell you this: if I had cancer, or a precancerous condition, I would absolutely give it a shot.

Disclaimer: This article provides general information for educational purposes only and is not intended to give medical advice, professional diagnosis, opinion, treatment or services. Consult your own physician or other healthcare provider.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

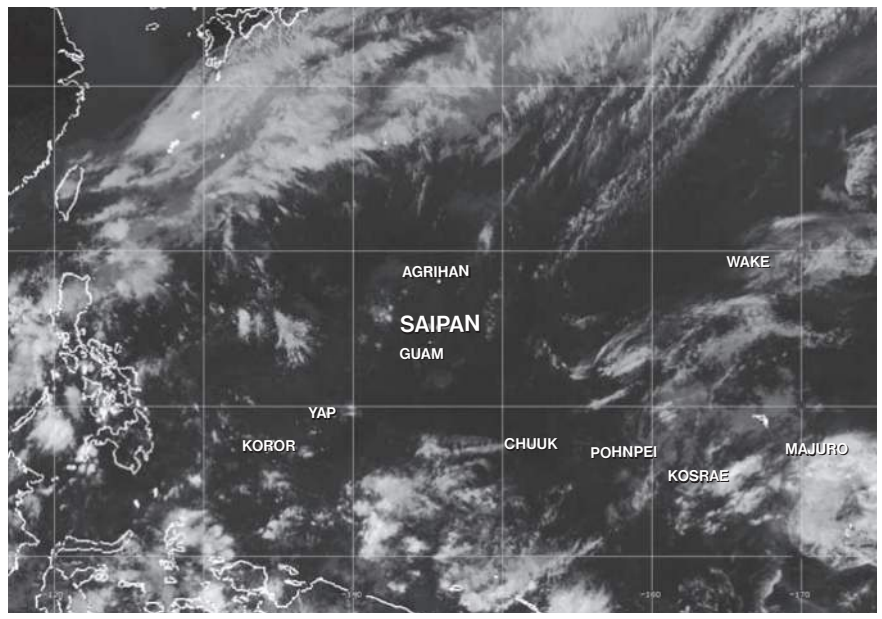
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲89	▼81
Palau	Showers	▲88	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲91	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼81
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼80
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲68	▼57
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼56
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲81	▼76
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼73
London	Showers	▲51	▼41
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲90	▼65
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼82
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲60	▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼70
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲58	▼41
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼61
Paris	Cloudy	▲59	▼49
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼59
Rome	Sunny	▲73	▼55
Salem	Rain	▲63	▼44
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼53
Seoul	Cloudy	▲77	▼57
Tokyo	Sunny	▲79	▼62
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲61	▼44

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MAY 13, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends from 1N143E to 6N145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough can be found southeast of Yap between the equator and 5N from 140E to 150E. Trade-wind convergence is producing an area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms just east of Kosrae and over the Marshall Islands between the equator and 7N from 164E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:36 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
10:11 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
5:34 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Wednesday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Thursday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:55 AM	10:02 PM
Wednesday	9:44 AM	10:46 PM
Thursday	10:33 AM	11:28 PM
Friday	11:22 AM	
Saturday	12:12 PM	12:08 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	2:55am	6:35am	1
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:55am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:55am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:00am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

CBP to implement paperless I-94 in Guam, NMI today

GUAM—U.S. Customs and Border Protection ports of entry in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will begin automation of the I-94 starting today, May 14.

In an effort to increase efficiency and minimize the use of paper forms, CBP has developed an electronic version of the Arrival/Departure Record commonly referred to as the CBP Form I-94. Certain passengers arriving into Guam and the CNMI onboard commercial airlines will no longer need to fill out the paper form.

Once travelers are processed through CBP, an electronic version of the arrival record is created with a unique admission number. Individuals can go to www.cbp.gov/I94 to view or print a copy of an I-94 based on the electronically submitted data, including the I-94 number from the form, to provide as necessary to benefits providers or as evidence of lawful admission.

"CBP is not only decreasing the amount of paperwork a traveler must complete, we are also seeking innovative ways to improve a traveler's inspection experience," said Steven King, CBP port director in Guam.

Travelers applying for admission under the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program will still be required to complete a paper CBP Form I-94 as well as the CBP Form I-736. Travelers entering the United States under a paroled status without a valid U.S. visa will also require the paper form.

More information regarding the electronic I-94 or other information regarding CBP is available online at www.cbp.gov.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is the unified border agency within the Department of Homeland Security charged with the management, control and protection of our nation's borders at and between official ports of entry. ***(CBP)***

FIRST COMMUNION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fr. Rey Rosal, pastor of San Vicente Parish, poses with CCD students after celebrating Holy Communion Mass for them on Sunday.

CHCC reviewing control measures against the flu

As of May 7, 2013, Chinese authorities reported 128 cases that have been confirmed to have influenza A (H7N9 flu) virus, including 26 deaths. All cases contracted the infection in China. Contacts of the confirmed cases are being closely monitored by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. There is no evidence of human-to-human transmission at this time.

CHCC is currently reviewing its Pandemic Flu Preparedness Plan to ensure emergency response readiness. According to Roxanne Diaz, director of Pubic Health Services, "We are working closely with Customs and Border [Protection], Commonwealth Ports Authority and our other Pandemic Flu Committee stakeholders in reviewing and updating our existing Pandemic Flu Plan to ensure that we're all on the same page in our response efforts, with the primary goal to ensure that our community is prepared and ready to respond to H7N9 and any health threat that comes our way."

The CHCC's Public Health authorities met with the CNMI Pandemic Flu Committee last week to provide guidance on the H7N9 situation and to review the existing CNMI Pandemic Influenza Plan in order to be prepared for this evolving situation.

"Although there are no cases of H7N9 flu in the CNMI, the CHCC is ready to respond to an outbreak if necessary," CHCC epidemiologist Edward Diaz stated. "However, we encourage the public to take proactive Flu W.A.T.C.H. steps by practicing basic hygiene measures like washing their hands often, avoiding close contact with people who are sick, and staying home from work or school when sick."

As of to date, CDC and WHO do not advise screening at points of entry with regard to this event, nor does it recommend that any travel or trade restrictions be applied.

The public is urged to keep themselves informed via the media. For more information, contact the CHCC's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Office at telephone number 234-8950 extension 3360, via email at chcpublichealth@gmail.com or contact the CHCC's Incident Command System's PIO, Glenn H. Manglona, at 287-4536. For more general information about the H7N9 flu, visit the CDC website at http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h7n9-virus.htm. ***(CHCC)***

Register now for summer book program

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council has opened registration for a summer book discussion series to be facilitated by noted novelist Dr. P.F. Kluge.

The monthlong program will meet three times a week (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays) for four weeks beginning on July 8. Each session will last about 90 minutes.

The series will involve close consideration—through lectures and class discussion—of one or more short stories from *The Vintage Book of Contemporary American Short Stories* edited by Tobias Wolff.

Kluge

Kluge and participants will discuss how stories work, how they are written, and what they say.

This will involve exploring story elements such as style, pace and pattern, characters and setting, as well as meaning, themes, and messages.

Kluge is an acclaimed novelist and Writer-in-Residence at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio.

He served as a Peace Corps volunteer on Saipan in the 1960s and is the author of several acclaimed novels, including *Eddie and the Cruisers*, *Biggest Elvis*, and *The Master Blaster*.

Participants may secure their seat by submitting a registration form and $10 registration fee to the Humanities Council by June 7. Registration includes a new copy of the course book.

Forms and series schedule are available at the Council office or may be downloaded from the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org.

For more information about this upcoming program, contact Council staff at 235-4785. ***(NMI Humanities Council)***

TakeCare Foundation to present $3.9K to CCA

TakeCare Foundation will present a $3,920 grant to the Commonwealth Cancer Association today, May 14, 2013, at 9am at the FHP Health Center on Saipan.

"Our Foundation will be donating $3,920 to the Commonwealth Cancer Association to assist with their education, prevention and awareness community outreach program," said Carlene Rios, TakeCare Foundation chair.

The Commonwealth Cancer Association is a community-based organization dedicated to promoting cancer awareness and prevention, providing patient support services, and serving as the liaison and advocate for cancer issues in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the region.

The TakeCare Foundation is composed of employees of TakeCare Insurance and the FHP Health Center who are devoted to charitable and educational causes that enhance the health, wellness and welfare of individuals, families and the public at large. It is unique because it is employee-driven. TakeCare and FHP employees play a major role in assisting with the contributions and the selection process of the grant recipients.

The TakeCare Foundation grant presentations occur in two cycles, in June and December. ***(TakeCare)***

WELL DONE! CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Michelle Demapan Santos for achieving your master of science in Psychology from the University of Phoenix in Arizona. Michelle is the wife of E7 Benito A. Santos and daughter of Frank and Lela Demapan.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy 34 Birthday to the most wonderful, loving life partner Ms. Ramona Ana Maratita Magofna. May you have a great day my sweetheart!! We love you so much!!! From: Andy, Riley, Your Honey(Leslie) and Sablan-Magofna Family and Friends!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 16th birthday to our dear Jenjen Savellano! We wish you all the best in life and more birthdays to come! Greetings come from your Golden Racquet Badminton Club family, NMBA, Sun Palace, and MakeOver Beauty Salon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Having a son like you is reason to be proud and happy—not just on your special day but always! Happy birthday, Matt! Thanks for being you.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Life is boring when you are not around! Happy birthday to a wonderful wife and mother, Pauline Camacho Roligat! We hope your birthday is a happy one, filled with surprises, lots of pleasure and fun! Greetings come from your WIC *familia.* Also, thank you for always being there for us. No words can explain what you mean to us. Hope you enjoy your day. We love you always! Greetings come from your husband Jeffrey Roligat and one and only baby girl, Nikki Marie C. Santos.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

While Wall Street soars, jobs market still scarred

By KEVIN G. HALL
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON—Don't let the soaring stock market and applause from politicians over a slight dip in the unemployment rate fool you. A deeper dive into government data underscores just how bleak the picture still is in today's labor market.

The unemployment rate in April was 7.5 percent, 2 full percentage points below where it stood at the end of the Great Recession in June 2009. The Obama administration touts the creation of 6.8 million jobs in the past 38 months. At the same time, the stock market has roared back from recession depths, the Dow Jones index of industrial stocks this week closing above 15,000 for the first time.

On the face of it, this is good news.

But the improving headlines mask a scarred labor market. One out of five American families reported last year that not a single family member had a job. About 102 million Americans are completely out of the work force. And by a number of measures, participation in the labor market remains at or near modern lows.

"Most of the improvement that we've seen in the unemployment rate hasn't been due to increased job opportunities. It's been due to people dropping out of, or never entering, the labor market because of weak opportunities," said Heidi Shierholz, a labor economist for the Economic Policy Institute, a liberal think tank. "Most of that decline is not coming from what would really be considered meaningful improvement in the unemployment rate."

There are several aberrations present in today's labor market.

For one thing, the fact that the unemployment rate has fallen 2 full percentage points since June 2009 omits the darker fact that it's a share of a workforce of 155 million that's smaller than it was at the start of the recession. If people who have dropped out of the workforce were included, the jobless rate would be higher.

One explanation is that there are a smaller number of people in the job market, either employed or looking for work, when counted as a percentage of the total working-age population.

In recent decades, about 67 percent of the working-age population has been in the job market, the labor force participation rate.

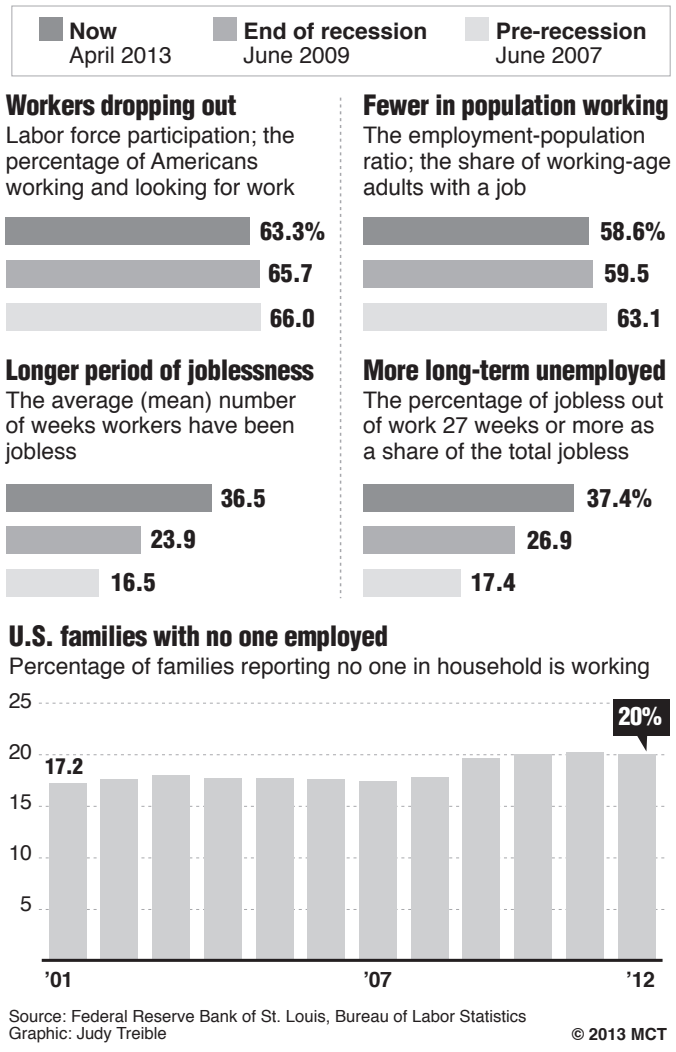
In April, just 63.3 percent were in the job market. That's well below the 65.7 percent at the end of the recession in June 2009, and from the 66 percent in June 2007, more than a year before the U.S. financial crisis.

Even with the 528,000 additional workers in the labor force since June 2009, the actual percentage of Americans participating in the labor force in April contracted by 2.4 points.

The labor force participation rate was already weakening before the Great Recession. The 2000-2007 economic expansion that followed the prior recession was dubbed a jobless recovery, in part because of the lagging recovery of the labor force participation rate.

Jobs picture still bleak

Though the recession officially ended in June 2009 and the jobless rate is dropping, a number of different indicators show participation in the labor market to be at or near modern lows.



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Graphic: Judy Treible

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YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. *Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.*

Good work history should overshadow firing

QUESTION: Six months ago, I was fired from a company where I worked for two years. My co-workers were a tight clique of women who blamed me whenever something went wrong. The supervisor supported them, and human resources didn't seem interested in my side of the story.

Before this happened, I had a good work history for 30 years, but I have not been able to find another job. When I tell employers I was fired, they never call me back for a second interview. How can I convince someone to hire me?

ANSWER: If you worked successfully for three decades, then the last job was obviously an anomaly. Perhaps you were unsuited for that particular position, or maybe the office drama just spiraled out of control. But regardless, the key to re-employment is highlighting your earlier record.

For example: "In my last job, I found myself in a difficult situation which I still don't fully understand. Perhaps I was simply not a good fit for that position. But as you can see from my resume, I previously had a long, successful work history. My former managers have provided reference letters, and they will be glad to talk with you about my ability and work ethic."

Ask your references for permission to share their names and contact information, then prepare a summary sheet to give employers. You must also make a concerted effort to sharpen your interview skills. A strong personal impression, combined with glowing recommendations, will help to offset any concerns about your termination.

■■■

Q: I am extremely angry with a colleague who keeps copying my work. When "Jody" was hired three years ago, I let her use my project documents as a model. But she is now quite capable of creating her own.

Although I have hinted that I don't like having my work copied, Jody continues to do it. We used to be friends, but now I try to avoid her. How can I stop this without creating a conflict?

A: I hate to break it to you, but if you are angrily avoiding a former friend, then a conflict already exists. The problem is that your refusal to communicate directly makes it impossible to resolve. Like many timid souls, you drop "hints" about your feelings, then become resentful when no one picks up on them.

Since you originally allowed Jody to copy your documents, she may have no idea that your feelings have changed. So instead of continuing to send subtle signals, try expressing your concerns like a mature adult.

For example: "Jody, I gave you permission to copy my work when you were new, but now I feel sure that you can do a great job on your own. Although I prefer not to have my documents duplicated, I will be glad to help if you should run into any roadblocks."

If imagining this conversation makes you queasy, then you will have to choose between taking an emotional risk and accepting the status quo. The only unacceptable alternative is to continue acting like a passive-aggressive child.

Bangladesh plans to raise pay for garment workers

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Bangladesh's government plans to raise the minimum wage for garment workers after the deaths of more than 1,100 people in the collapse of a factory building focused attention on the textile industry's dismal pay and hazardous working conditions.

A new minimum wage board will issue recommendations for pay raises within three months, Textiles Minister Abdul Latif Siddiky said Sunday. The Cabinet will then decide whether to accept those proposals.

The wage board will include representatives of factory owners, workers and the government, he said.

The April 24 building collapse was one of the world's worst industrial disasters and has raised alarm about conditions in Bangladesh's powerful textile industry that supplies retailers globally.

Working conditions in the $20 billion industry are grim, a result of government corruption, desperation for jobs, and industry indifference. Minimum wages for garment workers were last raised by 80 percent to 3,000 takas ($38) a month in 2010 following protests by workers.

Rescue workers said 1,125 bodies had been recovered by late Sunday from the ruins of the fallen Rana Plaza building, which housed five garment factories employing thousands of workers. Teams were using hydraulic cranes, bulldozers, shovels and iron cutters to uncover bodies more than two weeks after the eight-story building collapsed.

AP

A Bangladeshi woman reacts holding her son's daughter after her son's body was found after the April 24 garment factory building collapse in Savar, near Dhaka, Bangladesh, Sunday, May 12, 2013.

"We are still removing the rubble very carefully as dead bodies are still coming up," said Maj. Moazzem Hossain, a rescue team leader.

Hossain said they are trying to identify badly decomposed bodies by their identity cards. "If we get the ID cards with the bodies then we are lucky," he said.

On Friday, the search teams received a much-needed morale boost when they found a seamstress who survived under the rubble for 17 days on dried food and bottled and rain water.

More than 2,500 survivors were rescued soon after the collapse, but until 19-year-old Reshma Begum was found the crews had gone nearly two weeks without discovering anyone alive.

Doctors said she was improving after treatment for dehydration, insomnia, stress and weakness.

The Rana Plaza owner and eight other people, including garment factory owners, have been detained in the collapse investigation.

Nation

19 New Orleans shooting victims included 2 kids

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Gunmen opened fire on people marching in a neighborhood Mother's Day parade in New Orleans on Sunday, wounding at least 19.

The shooting - described by the FBI as a flare-up of street violence—shattered the festive mood surrounding the parade that drew hundreds of people to the 7th Ward neighborhood of modest row houses not far from the French Quarter. Cell phone video taken in the aftermath of the shooting shows victims lying on the ground, blood on the pavement and others bending over to comfort them.

At least three of the victims were seriously wounded. Of the rest, many were grazed and authorities said that overall most wounds were not life threatening. No deaths were reported.

The victims included 10 men, seven women, a boy and a girl. The children, both 10 years old, were grazed and in good condition.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu urged witnesses to come forward with information during a news conference Sunday night at a hospital where gunshot victims were taken.

"These kinds of incidents will not go unanswered. Somebody knows something. The way to stop this violence is for you all to help," he said.

AP

Bystanders comfort a shooting victim while awaiting EMS at the intersection of Frenchmen and N. Villere Streets after authorities say gunfire injured at least a dozen people, including a child, at a Mother's Day second-line parade in New Orleans on Sunday, May 12, 2013.

Mary Beth Romig, a spokeswoman for the FBI in New Orleans, said federal investigators have no indication that the shooting was an act of terrorism.

"It's strictly an act of street violence in New Orleans," she said.

As many as 400 people came out for the second-line procession - a boisterous New Orleans tradition - though only half that many were in the immediate vicinity of the shooting, said Police Superintendent Ronal Serpas. Officers were interspersed with the marchers, which is routine for such events.

Police saw three suspects running from the scene. No arrests had been made as of early evening.

Outside the hospital on Sunday night, Leonard Temple became teary as he talked about a friend who was in surgery after being shot three times during the parade. Temple was told the man was hit while trying to push his own daughter out of the way.

"People were just hanging out. We were just chilling. And this happened. Bad things always happen to good people," said Temple, who was at the parade but didn't see the shootings.

In the late afternoon, the scene was taped off and police had placed bullet casing markers in at least 10 spots.

Second-line parades are loose processions in which people dance down the street, often following behind a brass band. They can be planned events or impromptu offshoots of other celebrations. They trace their origins to the city's famous jazz funerals.

A social club called The Original Big 7 organized Sunday's event. The group was founded in 1996 at the Saint Bernard housing projects, according to its MySpace page.

The neighborhood where the shooting happened is a mix of low-income and middle-class row houses, some boarded up. As of last year, the 7th Ward's population was about 60 percent of its pre-Hurricane Katrina level.

The crime scene was about 1.5 miles from the heart of the French Quarter and near the Treme neighborhood, which has been the centerpiece for the HBO TV series "Treme."

Sunday's violence comes at a time when the city is struggling to pay for tens of millions of dollars required under a federal consent decree to reform the police department and the city jail.

Shootings at parades and neighborhood celebrations have become more common in recent years as the city has struggled with street crime. Earlier this year, four people were shot following an argument in the French Quarter during the last weekend of partying before Mardi Gras. The victims survived, and several suspects were eventually arrested.

Police vowed to make swift arrests. Serpas said it wasn't clear if particular people in the second line were targeted, or if the shots were fired at random.

Ex-Penn State head was top paid among public colleges

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—Former Penn State President Graham Spanier became the highest paid public college president of 2011-12 when he was forced out over his handling of the sex abuse scandal involving former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky, according to a survey released Sunday.

Spanier

The Chronicle of Higher Education's annual ranking of public college presidents' earnings said Spanier's $2.9 million pay, which included $1.2 million in severance and $1.2 million in deferred compensation, put him well ahead of his peers when he left Penn State in November 2011.

Spanier, who led the college for 16 years, is awaiting trial on criminal charges of perjury, obstruction, endangering the welfare of children, failure to properly report suspected child abuse and conspiracy stemming from administrators' handling of sex abuse allegations against Sandusky. Spanier has vigorously denied the charges.

Sandusky was convicted in 2012 of abusing 10 boys and sentenced to 30 to 60 years in prison.

Former Florida A&M University President James Ammons also saw his place on the earning list rise amid scandal. He ranked 11th at $781,000 after collecting $422,000 in severance and bonuses when he resigned in the wake of the hazing death of a marching band member.

While the median compensation for public college presidents was $441,392, a 4.7 percent increase over 2010-11, Spanier was one of four chief executives to surpass the $1 million threshold in 2011-12, one more than the previous year. The others were Auburn University President Jay Gogue, who received $2.5 million; E. Gordon Gee of Ohio State University, who earned $1.9 million; and now-retired George Mason University's Alan Merten, whose total pay plus benefits and deferred compensation totaled $1.87 million.

Review chairman: Clinton didn't make Benghazi call

WASHINGTON (AP)—The seasoned diplomat who penned a highly critical report on security at a U.S. outpost in Benghazi, Libya, defended his scathing assessment but absolved then-Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. "We knew where the responsibility rested," Thomas Pickering said Sunday.

"They've tried to point a finger at people more senior than where we found the decisions were made," Pickering, whose career spans four decades, said of Clinton's critics.

The Accountability Review Board, which Pickering headed with retired Adm. Mike Mullen, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, did not question Clinton at length about the attacks but concluded last December that the decisions about the consulate were made well below the secretary's level.

Pickering and Mullen's blistering report found that "systematic failures and leadership and management deficiencies at senior levels" of the State Department meant that security was "inadequate for Benghazi and grossly inadequate to deal with the attack that took place."

Pickering's defense of his panel's conclusions, however, failed to placate Republicans who have called for creation of a special select congressional committee to investigate the Sept. 11, 2012, assault on the U.S. diplomatic mission that killed four Americans, including U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens.

The top Republican on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee said he wants sworn depositions from Pickering and Mullen, and promised to make that request on Monday.

"This is a failure, it needs to be investigated. Our committee can investigate. Now, Ambassador Pickering, his people and he refused to come before our committee," said Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., the panel's chairman.

Pickering, sitting next to Issa during an appearance on one Sunday show, said the chairman was lying and that he was willing to testify before the committee.

"That is not true," said the former top diplomat who has served in Republican as well as Democratic administrations.

In a separate interview, Pickering said he asked, via the White House, to appear at Wednesday's session. He said he could have answered many of the questions lawmakers raised, such as whether U.S. military forces could have saved Americans had they dispatched F-16 jet fighters to the consulate, some 1,600 miles away from the nearest likely launching point.

Women rescued in Cleveland happy to be home

CLEVELAND (AP)—The three women allegedly imprisoned and sexually abused for years inside a padlocked Cleveland house asked for privacy Sunday, saying through an attorney that while they are grateful for overwhelming support, they also need time to heal.

Amanda Berry, Gina DeJesus, and Michelle Knight remain in seclusion, releasing their first statements since they were found May 6 when Berry escaped and told a 911 dispatcher, "I'm free now."

They thanked law enforcement and said they were grateful for the support of family and the community.

"I am so happy to be home, and I want to thank everybody for all your prayers," DeJesus said in a statement read by an attorney. "I just want time now to be with my family." The women, now in their 20s and 30s, vanished separately between 2002 and 2004. At the time, they were 14, 16 and 20 years old.

Investigators say they spent the last nine years or more inside the home of Ariel Castro where they were repeatedly raped and only allowed outside a handful of times. Castro, 52, is being held on $8 million bond. The former school bus driver was charged with four counts of kidnapping and three counts of rape.

Prosecutors said last week they may seek aggravated murder charges—punishable by death—for allegedly impregnating one of his captives at least five times and forcing her miscarry by starving her and punching her in the belly.

The allegations were contained in a police report that also said Berry was forced to give birth in a plastic kiddie pool inside the home. A DNA test confirmed that Castro fathered the 6-year-old girl, who escaped the house with Berry.

After nearly a decade of being away, the three women need time to reconnect with their families, said attorney Jim Wooley.

Knight, who was the first to disappear and the last of the three released from the hospital, thanked everyone for their support and good wishes in her statement.

Asia

Filipino clans, celebrities dominate midterm polls

AP

Filipinos fill out ballots at a classroom used as a voting precinct during mid-term elections at a school in Manila, Philippines on Monday, May 13, 2013.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—From Imelda Marcos to Manny Pacquiao, familiar names of Philippine political clans and celebrities dominated the ballots for Monday's congressional and local elections, which will gauge popular support for the president's anti-corruption drive and other reforms.

Despite scattered killings and fears of fraud, the polls were relatively peaceful as soldiers and police secured stations in potentially violent areas. Polling started at 7 a.m. and was to end at 7 p.m. with first results expected in 48 hours.

More than 52 million Filipinos have registered to elect 18,000 officials, including half of the 24-member Senate, nearly 300 members of the House of Representatives and leaders of a Muslim autonomous region in the south, where Islamic insurgents, al-Qaida-linked gunmen and private armies have long been a concern.

The logistical nightmare has been compounded by worries that some of about 80,000 automated counting machines, which are being used for only the second time since the 2010 presidential election, may fail in regions grappling with power outages. About 1,000 portable generators have been transported to problematic areas.

The official election watchdog, Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, said it has received reports of some breakdowns, including in metropolitan Manila. The supplier said it had expected 200-300 units to malfunction but it had 2,000 replacements on standby.

The outcome will determine the level of support for President Benigno Aquino III's reforms in his remaining three years in office. Aquino has been praised at home and abroad for cracking down on widespread corruption, backing key legislation and concluding an initial peace agreement with Muslim rebels.

But he cannot run for re-election and a choice of his successor, who will be expected to continue on the same reform path, will depend on the new political landscape.

Candidates backed by Aquino are running against a coalition headed by Vice President Jejomar Binay and deposed President Joseph Estrada. Although officially No. 2 in the country, Binay has emerged as the administration's rival and may be positioning himself for the 2016 presidential race.

Among 33 senatorial candidates are two of Aquino's relatives, Binay's neophyte daughter, Estrada's son, a son of the sitting chamber president, a son of a late president, a spouse and children of former senators and there's a possibility that two siblings will be sitting in the same house. Currently, 15 senators have relatives serving in elective positions.

The race for the House is even more of a family affair. Toppled dictator Ferdinand Marcos' widow, the flamboyant 83-year-old Imelda, is expected to keep her seat as a representative for Ilocos Norte province, the husband's birthplace where the locals kept electing the Marcoses despite allegations of corruption and abuse during their long rule. Marcos' daughter, Imee is seeking re-election as governor and the son, Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., is already a senator.

Boxing star and incumbent Rep. Manny Pacquiao is running unopposed and building a dynasty of his own: his brother Rogelio is running to represent his southern district and his wife Jinkee is vying to become vice-governor for Sarangani province.

Estrada, who was ousted in a 2001 "people power" revolt on corruption allegations, is running for mayor of Manila, hoping to capitalize on his movie star popularity, particularly among the poor masses.

Philippine elections have long been dominated by politicians belonging to the same bloodlines. At least 250 political families have monopolized power across the country, although such dynasties are prohibited under the 1987 constitution. Congress—long controlled by members of powerful clans targeted by the constitutional ban—has failed to pass the law needed to define and enforce the provision.

"Wherever you go, you see the names of these people since we were kids. It is still them," businessman Martin Tunac, 54, said after voting in Manila. "One of the bad things about political dynasties is they control everything, including business."

School counselor Evelyn Dioquino said that the proliferation of political dynasties was a cultural issue and other candidates stood little chance because clans "have money, so they are the only ones who can afford (to run). Of course, if you have no logistics, you can't run for office."

Critics worry that a single family's stranglehold on different levels of government could stymie checks against abuses and corruption. A widely cited example is the 2009 massacre of 58 people, including 32 media workers, in an ambush blamed on rivalry between powerful clans in southern Maguindanao province.

In the latest violence, gunmen killed five people and wounded two mayoral candidates in separate attacks over the weekend. Last month, gunmen fired on a truck carrying a town mayor and his supporters in southern Lanao del Norte province, killing 13 people including his daughter.

The 125,000-strong military has helped the government in urging candidates to shun violence. An army general took off with his troops aboard two helicopters and dropped leaflets calling for peaceful elections in Masbate, a central province notorious for political killings.

Ana Maria Tabunda from the independent pollster Pulse Asia said that dynasties restrict democracy, but added that past surveys by her organization have shown that most Filipinos are less concerned about the issue than with the benefits and patronage they can receive from particular candidates. Voters also often pick candidates with the most familiar surnames instead of those with the best records, she said.

"It's name recall, like a brand. They go by that," she said.

Pakistan's Sharif gets resounding election victory

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—Former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif looked poised to return to office with a resounding election victory—a mandate that could make it easier to tackle the country's daunting problems, including growing power outages, weak economic growth and shaky government finances.

Questions remain, however, about Sharif's stance on another key issue: violent Islamic extremism. Critics have accused his party of being soft on radicals because it hasn't cracked down on militant groups in its stronghold of Punjab province. The United States has pushed Pakistan for years to take stronger action against Islamic militants whose fighters stage cross-border attacks against American troops in Afghanistan.

As unofficial returns rolled in Sunday, a day after the election, state TV estimates put Sharif close to the majority in the national assembly needed to govern outright for the next five years. Even if he falls short of that threshold, independent candidates almost certain to swing in Sharif's favor would give his Pakistan Muslim League-N party a ruling majority.

That would put the 63-year-old Sharif in a much stronger position than the outgoing Pakistan People's Party, which ruled for five years with a weak coalition that was often on the verge of collapse.

Pakistan suffers from a growing energy crisis, with some areas experiencing power outages for up to 18 hours a day.

ASIA BRIEFS

Hong Kong transgender woman wins right to marry

HONG KONG (AP)—A transgender woman has won the right to marry her boyfriend in a watershed ruling from Hong Kong's top court. The Court of Final Appeal ruled on Monday in favor of the woman, identified only as W. One of the judges on the five-member panel dissented. The surprise decision brings the semiautonomous Chinese city in line with a few other places in Asia like Singapore, Australia and New Zealand, where transgender people are allowed to marry in their new gender. W's lawyer, Michael Vidler, said his client was "overjoyed" at the decision. Vidler said the decision won't take effect for 12 months. That's so the government can have enough time to change marriage laws. The ruling does not allow same-sex marriage.

North Korea replaces hard-line defense chief

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea has replaced its hard-line defense chief with a little-known army general. The significance of Jang Jong Nam's appointment wasn't immediately clear. The announcement comes amid tentative signs of an interest in diplomacy after weeks of rising animosity and dueling threats on the Korean Peninsula. Little is known about Jang. Mention of his new role was buried Monday in a state media dispatch listing those who attended an art performance with leader Kim Jong Un. It's not known when Jang replaced Kim Kyok Sik. Kim is the former commander of battalions believed responsible for deadly attacks on South Korea in 2010. State media previously identified Jang as head of the army's First Corps who pledged allegiance to Kim Jong Un and threatened South Korea in a speech last December.

China investigates top planning official for graft

BEIJING (AP)—Authorities have launched an investigation into the deputy head of China's economic planning agency, the latest high-level official to become ensnared in the new leadership's anti-corruption drive. The ruling Communist Party's disciplinary agency said in a one-sentence statement on its website that Liu Tienan, deputy head of the Cabinet's National Development and Reform Commission, is being investigated for "suspected serious disciplinary violations." The statement by the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection on Sunday did not provide further details. But the investigation is being seen by Chinese state media as the party's response to corruption allegations against Liu made by a prominent journalist in December. Liu, 58, wields significant power in his position as deputy chief of the planning agency in charge of steering the world's second largest economy.

World

Syrian rebels release 4 UN Filipino peacekeepers

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Syrian rebels on Sunday released four Filipino U.N. peacekeepers they abducted last week in a dramatic incident that prompted warnings from the Philippines that the nation might pull out its contingent from the Golan Heights.

Meanwhile, a Syrian official said President Bashar Assad's troops have the right to enter the Israeli-occupied Golan whenever they wish—a veiled threat toward Israel to stay out of Syria's conflict.

Also Sunday, Damascus rejected Turkey's allegations that Syria was behind two car bombings that killed 46 people in Turkey and wounded dozens more the day before.

The four Filipinos, seized Tuesday, were apparently unharmed, but they will undergo a medical checkup and stress debriefing, said Brig. Gen. Domingo Tutaan.

A statement by the rebel group holding the peacekeepers—the Yarmouk Martyrs Brigade—said the four were handed over to a U.N. delegation in the border area on Sunday, but provided no other details.

The peacekeepers are part of a U.N. contingent that patrols a buffer zone between Syria and the Golan Heights, a plateau Israel captured from Syria in 1967.

It was the second abduction of Filipino peacekeepers since March, when 21 were held for three days by rebels fighting Assad.

The Philippine foreign secretary has said he would recommend withdrawing Filipinos from the peacekeeping contingent in Syria, but the final decision is up to the country's president.

Nearly 1,000 U.N. peacekeepers patrol the Golan. Other major contributors are India and Austria. Croatia recently withdrew its contingent.

The buffer zone has been largely quiet for four decades, but tensions have risen there since the outbreak of the revolt in Syria more than two years ago.

In Damascus, Information Minister Omran al-Zoubi told a news conference on Sunday that Syria has the right to enter the Golan Heights.

"The Golan is Syrian Arab territory and will remain so, even if the Israeli army is stationed there. We have the right to go in and out of it whenever we want and however we please," he said.

His comments came in response to last week's Israeli airstrikes on Syria, which Israeli officials say targeted advanced Iranian missiles intended for Lebanon's Hezbollah.

The strikes marked a sharp escalation of Israel's involvement in the Syrian civil war and raised fears that a conflict that has repeatedly spilled over Syria's borders could turn into a regional war.

Syria has threatened to retaliate but the official response was relatively mild.

"Israel should understand that the Syrian skies are not a picnic for anyone," al-Zoubi warned.

"We are a people who do not forget to retaliate against those who commit aggression against us, and we do not forget our martyrs or those who killed them," he said.

Israeli officials had no comment.

AP

In this image taken from video obtained from the Ugarit News, which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, a man reads a statement as four abducted Filipino UN peacekeepers are seen in Daraa, Syria, on Thursday, May 9, 2013.

Egypt's Mubarak talks for 1st time since detention

CAIRO (AP)—In his first comments to the media since he was detained more than two years ago, Egypt's ousted leader Hosni Mubarak said he is dismayed at the country's state of affairs and particularly the plight of the poor.

The 85-year old Mubarak said in remarks published Sunday in Al-Watan newspaper that it is also too early to judge his elected successor, Islamist President Mohammed Morsi, because he has a heavy burden to deal with. He also warned against a much-negotiated loan from the International Monetary Fund, saying it would make life harder for the poor in Egypt, where over 40 percent of the population lives on less than $2 a day.

The authenticity of the interview could not be immediately verified. Calls by The Associated Press to Mubarak's lawyer Farid El-Deeb went unanswered, but he was quoted as telling Ahram Online, the electronic version of the state-owned Al-Ahram, that the interview was a "fabrication."

Al-Watan's reporter, Mohammed el-Sheik, took photos of himself near and inside Mubarak's medical helicopter, without the ex-leader inside. El-Sheik said he conducted the interview after sneaking into a waiting area where Mubarak was held during his trial Saturday, apparently before the hearing began.

He also told the private ONTV station Sunday that he couldn't record the interview because he had to avoid Mubarak's tight security.

Mubarak has been a longtime nemesis of the Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamist group from which Morsi hails. In his comments to the privately owned Egyptian paper published Sunday, Mubarak appeared to be gloating, painting a picture of a nation that has unraveled following his 2011 ouster and portraying himself as a protector of the poor.

Mubarak stepped down in February 2011 in the face of a wave of popular protests whose main slogan was "Bread, Freedom and Social Justice." Protesters accused Mubarak of fostering a culture where power was centralized and police acted with impunity. They also believed Mubarak was grooming one of his sons to succeed him.

AP

This image made from video broadcast on Egyptian state television shows former President Hosni Mubarak inside the defendant's cage in a courtroom in Cairo, Egypt, Saturday, May 11, 2013.

Rapes on rise in Somaliland, say medical officials

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—An upsurge of gang rapes has hit the breakaway region of Somaliland—a normally peaceful enclave considered by many to be a sanctuary from Somalia's decades of violence.

Knife-wielding young men follow women along the dusty streets of Hargeisa, the capital of the region, dragging them inside buildings to rape and rob them. Children are among the victims.

At least 84 women have been raped since the beginning of this year, according to rights activists and medical officials.

"This year is more terrifying than last year when we were barely receiving two or three in each month. This year we are seeing a new victim for every day," said a nurse at a hospital in Hargeisa. She insisted on anonymity because she is not authorized to release the details.

"It's rampant and victims are being attacked at homes, streets or anywhere now," she said.

The northern region of Somaliland declared independence from the rest of Somalia in 1960, but it has not won international recognition as an independent state. Having escaped decades of conflict in Somalia, Somaliland employs its own security and police forces, justice system and currency. It is seen by some neighboring countries as a bulwark against terrorism. It also has a reputation for successfully maintaining law and order for its population of 3.5 million.

The outbreak of gang rapes in Somaliland began early this year and has surprised local residents who blame gangs of young men.

Confronted by the spate of attacks, police have arrested dozens of suspects, but the rapes continue on Hargeisa's streets and in back roads.

Some of the victims were beaten while others suffered stabbings by the gangs. This could dent the women's freedom in Somaliland where they can drive and exercise many freedoms. Many women do not wear the veil in public.

But now some religious leaders suggest that women remain closer to their homes to avoid the rapes.

"This is in fact a horrible outbreak, raped and bleeding children are being brought into hospitals every day," said Nimo Hussein Qowdhan, Somaliland's deputy health minister. "It's becoming out of control. We must concentrate on fighting it."

Two young children were recent victims of the gang-rape attacks, said officials.

British fugitive caught sunbathing in Spain

MADRID (AP)—Spanish police snuck up on a British fugitive as he sunbathed, arresting him in a dramatic raid that even saw the suspect leap onto the roof of a nearby outhouse to try to get away.

The arrest of Andrew Terence Moran, 31, on Friday came some four years after he assaulted and escaped from security guards during an armed robbery trial in the United Kingdom.

Moran was found at a luxury villa in Calpe, a resort on the Alicante coast, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, an Interior Ministry statement said Sunday.

Police video footage showed how officers stealthily approached a swimming pool while hiding behind walls before pouncing on Moran as he relaxed in red swimming trunks.

As soon as police jumped over the walls, Moran tried to flee, leaping onto the tiled roof of a pool-side outhouse before being captured.

According to Britain's Serious Organized Crime Agency, police also seized two handguns, 60 rounds of ammunition and a machete.

"Moran thought he could evade capture fleeing to Spain, frequently changing his appearance and using false identities," said Matt Burton, SOCA's head of investigations.

Moran and an associate, Stephen Devalda, 29, were accused of stealing 25,000 pounds (US$38,400) from a mail van in Colne, northwest England, using a handgun, machete and baseball bat. A security guard was injured in the May 2005 robbery.

During his escape from custody in 2009, Moran assaulted four security guards and vaulted over the courtroom dock. He was convicted in his absence of conspiracy to commit armed robbery.

Alerted to his presence near the Mediterranean coast, Spanish police tracked him down last November. However, Moran managed to get away after using his vehicle to ram two belonging to the police and driving off at high speed on the wrong side of a highway.

AP

In this photo released Sunday May 12, 2013, by the Spanish National Police and British Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), showing the moment British fugitive Andrew Moran is arrested Friday May 10, 2013, as he relaxed next to the pool of a luxury villa in Alicante, Spain.

Overdrive

Cars made in Brazil are deadly

By BRADLEY BROOKS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Nov. 25, 2012 photo, rescue workers remove a man from a vehicle after an accident in Sao Paulo, Brazil. AP

SAO PAULO (AP)—The cars roll endlessly off the local assembly lines of the industry's biggest automakers, more than 10,000 a day, into the eager hands of Brazil's new middle class. The shiny new Fords, Fiats, and Chevrolets tell the tale of an economy in full bloom that now boasts the fourth largest auto market in the world.

What happens once those vehicles hit the streets, however, is shaping up as a national tragedy, experts say, with thousands of Brazilians dying every year in auto accidents that in many cases shouldn't have proven fatal.

The culprits are the cars themselves, produced with weaker welds, scant safety features and inferior materials compared to similar models manufactured for U.S. and European consumers, say experts and engineers inside the industry. Four of Brazil's five bestselling cars failed their independent crash tests.

Unsafe cars, coupled with the South American nation's often dangerous driving conditions, have resulted in a Brazilian death rate from passenger car accidents that is nearly four times that of the United States, according to an Associated Press analysis of Brazilian Health Ministry data on deaths compared to the size of each country's car fleet. In fact, the two countries are moving in opposite directions on survival rates—the U.S. recorded 40 percent fewer fatalities from car wrecks in 2010 compared with a decade before. In Brazil, the number killed rose 72 percent, according to the latest available data.

Dr. Dirceu Alves, of Abramet, a Brazilian association of doctors that specializes in treating traffic accident victims, said poorly built cars take an unnecessary toll.

"The gravity of the injuries arriving at the hospitals is just ugly," he said, "injuries that should not be occurring."

Automakers in Brazil point out that their cars meet the nation's safety laws. Some said they build even tougher cars for the country because of its poorly maintained roadways and rejected any notion that cost-cutting in production leads to fatalities.

But the country's few safety activists perceive a deadly double standard, with automakers earning more money from selling cars that offer drivers fewer safeguards—a worrisome gap for new middle-class households, whose surging spending power has outpaced consumer protections taken for granted in more developed countries. The problem extends beyond Brazil, with economic forecasts showing the majority of global growth in auto sales taking place in emerging-market nations as the world's auto fleet doubles to 1.5 billion by 2020.

"Entry-level cars in Brazil are incredibly dangerous, it can't be denied. The death rate from accidents is far too high," said Maria Ines Dolci, coordinator of the Rio de Janeiro-based consumer defense group Proteste. "The manufacturers do this because the cars are a little cheaper to make and the demands of the Brazilian consumers are less; their knowledge of safety issues is lower than in Europe or the U.S."

Manufacturers earn a 10 percent profit on Brazilian-made cars, compared with 3 percent in the U.S. and a global average of 5 percent, according to IHS Automotive, an industry consulting firm.

Only next year will laws require frontal air bags and antilock braking systems on all cars, safety features that have been standard in industrial countries for years. The country will also have new impact regulations on paper, at least; Brazilian regulators don't have their own crash-test facility to verify automakers' claims about vehicle performance, nor are there independent labs in the country.

Experts say those requirements alone are not sufficient to meet basic safety standards. Some models sold in Brazil, like the Chinese-made JAC J3, scored only one star in a recent crash test despite having air bags and antilock brakes.

An independent pilot effort known as the Latin New Car Assessment Program has run initial tests of Brazil's most popular car models, and the results are bleak.

Drowsy driving remains an elusive highway dilemma

MINEOLA, N.Y. (AP)—It probably happens to most drivers.

Heading home after an overtime shift and the eyelids flutter. Up all night with a sick baby and you rest your eyes for just a moment on the way to dropping off the kids at school. Drowsy drivers often make it safely to their destination, but for some, the consequences are devastating.

"To this day I still hear my boys crying out, yelling for Daddy, when they were told the news," says Jackie Califano, the widow of a New York police officer killed when a suspected drowsy driver plowed into his parked cruiser in 2011. "The pain we experienced is beyond description and continues to be."

More than 11,000 deaths were attributed to drowsy driving from 2000 to 2010, according to federal statistics. And experts say it's a problem that can't easily be solved by new laws because proving sleepiness behind the wheel is difficult, if not impossible.

Authorities can easily determine how much alcohol is in a driver's blood, or whether someone has used illegal drugs, or even if someone has been texting while driving.

But quantifying drowsy driving is not an exact science, prosecutors say, and laws banning commercial truck and motor coach operators from driving more than 11 hours a day and requiring 10 hours between shifts are flawed because they often rely on the drivers to report those hours themselves.

In a drowsy driving case late last year, a tour bus driver was acquitted of manslaughter and negligent homicide in a 2011 Bronx crash that killed 15 people. A jury rejected prosecutors' arguments that Ophadell Williams was so sleep-deprived from working another job that it affected his reflexes as much as if he was intoxicated.

That verdict influenced a Long Island prosecutor's decision this year to drop negligent homicide charges against the truck driver involved in a fatal crash that killed Califano's husband. Ultimately, the truck driver pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor reckless driving charge and paid a $500 fine.

"If you are going to try and make fatigue—sleepiness—a criminal legal issue in a motor vehicle accident, you have a lot, lot more to prove," said Patrick Bruno, who defended Williams in the bus crash case.

Maureen McCormick, who heads the Nassau County vehicular crimes bureau, explained that to obtain a conviction in the police officer's death, she would have had to prove "serious blameworthiness," "moral blameworthiness" or "dangerous speeding," a standard she said is impossible to meet.

"Drowsy driving is something that generally has happened to everyone," McCormick said. "The question is what do we do as a society when that feeling starts to come?"

When McCormick read a statement at the truck driver's sentencing on behalf of Officer Michael Califano's widow, veteran police officers and journalists wiped away tears.

"Michael, Christopher and Andrew now have to grow up without him," McCormick said as Jackie Califano sat in the front row of the courtroom, hugging her sons, 16, 13 and 8. "No more doing homework with his help. No more sports with him. No more family vacations. No more horsing around with dad. No dad for Father/Son Night at school. No dad at home to turn to when they need advice."

New Jersey is the only state that has successfully passed legislation addressing drowsy driving, according to Dan Brown, an Atlanta attorney and member of the National Sleep Foundation board of directors. But he noted that "Maggie's Law" doesn't fully solve the problem because prosecutors must show that a driver had been awake for 24 consecutive hours to prove possible recklessness, which is often a difficult proposition.

New Jersey court officials didn't have statistics available on the number of arrests or successful prosecutions since the law was enacted in 2003.

Massachusetts state Sen. Richard Moore said he considered legislation after a constituent's son was killed in a 2002 drowsy driving crash.

UNDER THE HOOD

The basics of fuel injection

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: I'm hoping you can bring an old-timer up to speed on fuel injection. I used to be pretty good at fixing things but hadn't even considered trying to work on this one. I'd feel better driving if I had an idea what's going on under the hood.—Herb Frost

ANSWER: OK, here goes: A typical fuel-injection system utilizes three general processes: fuel pressure, thinking/processing and fuel delivery. Fuel pressure involves the use of an electric fuel pump inside or near the fuel tank. The pump sends fuel to the fuel rail, a pipe of sorts that's attached to the engine and the fuel injectors. There, a pressure regulator holds a specified pressure and returns unneeded fuel to the tank. Recent vehicles house the regulator in the fuel tank and send forward only the fuel that's needed.

The thinking/processing part employs a control unit typically called an electronic control module/powertrain control module, or ECM/PCM. In addition to managing the fuel pump, this very smart box receives information from a dozen or more engine and transmission sensors. This information indicates engine and vehicle speed, load, temperature, airflow, throttle position, altitude and gear selection, just to name a few. Incoming data is crunched with programmed instructions resulting in appropriate commands being issued to fuel, ignition, transmission and emission-control actuators.

Fuel injectors manage the delivery of metered, misted fuel, which next vaporizes in the intake manifold on the way to the engine's combustion chambers. Each brief electrical pulse sent from the ECM/PCM to these electromechanical showerheads results in a precise shot of fuel just as each intake valve opens. Very recent vehicles take this a step further and shoot highly pressurized fuel directly into each combustion chamber. Fuel injection is vastly superior to carburetors of the past. Now, each engine cylinder receives a more evenly matched quantity of fuel, fuel is more precisely atomized (misted), and there are far fewer quirky mechanical things to go awry.

The thinking/processing part now comes back into play, monitoring exhaust oxygen content. This information allows fine-tuning and corrections to be made to fuel-injection commands, in compensation for minor problems or wear and tear. If a problem develops that could threaten emission compliance, and to a lesser degree engine performance, the onboard diagnostics system lights the "check engine" lamp, stores a trouble code, and records a snapshot of engine conditions.

Fuel-injection systems are incredibly reliable. When service is needed, a scan tool provides access to trouble codes, sensor data, fuel trim or fine-tuning information, actuator commands, the data snapshot and additional diagnostic information. Fuel pressure may also be checked by connecting a pressure gauge. Typical problems, while very rare, include a worn-out fuel pump, with a lifespan perhaps of 100,000-150,000 miles; dirty fuel injectors; and sensor or connection faults. Most are fairly easy to diagnose and repair.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

J.J. Abrams steers the USS Enterprise in a surprising direction

PARAMOUNT PICTURES/MCT

Chris Pine, left, and Zachary Quinto star in "Star Trek Into Darkness."

By RENE RODRIGUEZ
THE MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI—"You just made my day," director J.J. Abrams says, exhaling with relief. He's just been told that a particular action sequence in his new movie "Star Trek Into Darkness" quickened the pulse of a seen-it-all movie critic, and for a moment, Abrams can stop explaining all the laborious homework and meticulous details that go into making a film with a rabid (and vocal) fan base and simply talk about the picture as a giant summer movie, shot with IMAX cameras and post-converted to 3-D.

"The key for us was always to make a movie that was, above all else, a thrill ride and funny and entertaining," Abrams says. "We had already done the heavy lifting (in 2009's "Star Trek") and established our take on the characters and our own timeline that acknowledges and honors everything that had come before, but at the same time splits off and heads out on its own direction. We could pick and choose what we wanted from the original series and leave other things alone. And it was intentionally designed as a stand-alone movie. There's no need to have seen the first movie or the original series. They are not essential reading. But if you are a fan of the series, you'll be rewarded too."

Although "Into Darkness" tinkers with "Trek" canon in ingenious (some will say blasphemous) ways, the movie's primary objective is to put on a great show, with a series of increasingly grander action setpieces that are furiously exciting.

"What J.J. does so well is to maintain a sense of fun throughout the entire story," says Simon Pegg, who plays the engineer Scotty. "It's important that a big entertainment like this remembers what it is and doesn't get pretensions of high art. Not that the movie isn't artful: It is. But there has been a tendency recently in movies to get overly serious with what is essentially kids' stuff. Some filmmakers are trying to make comic books and superheroes and fantasy a little more somber, but I think sometimes that's a slight misstep, because it loses the core of what makes (the genre) special. J.J. never loses touch with his inner child: He is so in touch with the experience of being thrilled and happy and excited in every way."

"Star Trek Into Darkness," which opens in IMAX theaters on Wednesday and everywhere else on Thursday, follows the crew of the USS Enterprise as they reluctantly embark on a military mission to apprehend a terrorist, John Harrison (Benedict Cumberbatch), who plants a bomb that kills hundreds of people in London, then hides out on a Klingon planet where Captain James T. Kirk (Chris Pine) and his crew are bound by law not to trespass.

With all those pesky origin storylines and character introductions taken care of in the first film (which grossed $385 million worldwide), you might assume writing the sequel would be easier—an opportunity for the creators to play and indulge crazy ideas. But Roberto Orci, who co-wrote the screenplay with Alex Kurtzman and Damon Lindelof, says the experience was quite the opposite.

"With the first movie, we benefited from low expectations," Orci says. "How are you going to recast Kirk and Spock? No one thought it could be done. Now with the second movie, all that stuff is gone and we can do anything we want. That was actually horrifying and terrifying, because the audience demands to be surprised again, but this time their expectations are much higher."

Ever since filming began, rumors have run rampant on the Internet. Is the bad guy in the film really the iconic villain Khan (originally played by Ricardo Montalban) in disguise? Is the shot from the Japanese trailer of two hands touching through a pane of glass an homage to the ending of "Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan," and if so, who do the hands belong to? Is there really a Tribble in the movie?

Writer Larry Nemecek, a "Star Trek" authority who maintains the popular treklandblog.com, says even he was caught off-guard by some of the twists in "Into Darkness."

"The story starts out as a routine mission, but there are some major milestones for many of the characters," he says. "I was really struck by how many homages they paid to the original show. They managed to walk the line and satisfy both the core fans and the casual viewers. During the last third of the movie, I was sitting there thinking 'I can't believe they're going there.' And they really went there!"

Abrams, who has accepted the daunting task of directing the next "Star Wars" movie (due in 2015), says he tends to do his best work when all eyes are trained on him.

"The opportunity to direct 'Mission Impossible III' was such an incredible dream come true," he says. "Tom Cruise offered me that job when no one else ever would. As much pressure as there was, making that movie with him was so much fun. 'Star Trek' was a different challenge because of its history and its huge fan base. But I was in such good company with my writers and my cast that the potential and creativity overrode any pressure.

"Now moving into 'Star Wars,' I'm working with people like (producer) Kathleen Kennedy and (screenwriters) Larry Kasdan and Michael Arndt and Simon Kinberg. They provide me with incredible comfort and support, knowing that we're all embarking on this very cool, creative thing. Sure, there's going to be pressure. But there has been pressure in every TV show and film I've been involved in. One way to look at it is pressure; another way is to look at it is excitement."

'Idol' judges drama upstaging the competition

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The ratings are down. Randy Jackson is out. Mariah Carey and Nicki Minaj are still at it.

All is not well on TV's once dominant "American Idol," despite a shake-up at the beginning of this season that was supposed to rejuvenate the aging Fox talent competition. Instead, the behind-the-scenes-and-sometimes-in-front-of-the-scenes drama continues to cast a shadow over the series, right up to Thursday's coronation of "Idol's" 12th season champion.

Jackson's declaration last week that he was departing the show means producers could plan a proper send-off for the lone remaining original judge this week, much the same way they did for Simon Cowell during the ninth season finale in 2010. However, 'the fates of the other three judges remain uncertain amid reports they're out, too, and Fox and "Idol" producer FremantleMedia aren't commenting.

It's oh-so-familiar territory for the show, whose panel has revolved like an amusement park carousel since the addition of songwriter Kara DioGuardi at the beginning of the eighth season in 2009. The will-they-or-won't-they speculation sparked publicity for years, but many viewers—the ones who are left, anyway—have seemingly grown tired of the guessing games.

"It's a disservice to the talent on the show," said Lyndsey Parker, Yahoo's music editor who writes about "Idol" and other televised singing competitions on the "Reality Rocks" blog. "I'm quite fatigued by all the emphasis on the judges, especially when they step down or aren't asked back or whatever, and the speculation begins about all the potential replacements."

A trio of chart-topping new faces on this season's panel was supposed to breathe new life into "Idol." With reported paychecks of $18 million for Carey, $12 million for Minaj and $6 million for Keith Urban, there hasn't been a return on the investment. The ratings have nev-

See IDOL on NEXT Page

Message of Appreciation

We have lost someone very special……

†Andrea Cabrera Duenas

Si Yu'us Ma'ase – Thank You

There are no words adequate enough to describe the pain the sense of loss that is felt upon the death of a loved one. Yet, in this time of loss, the prayers, kind words, and gracious support of family and friends have eased our sorrows and has become a source of strength.

Your presence and prayers at the nightly rosaries and most especially at the Mass of Christian Burial were very comforting.

Our special thanks go out to Fr. Celso Magbanua, Pali Jose Villagomez, Fr. Ken, Fr. Dodoy, Fr. Rey, Pali Jesse, Pali Nonoy and Fr. Romil. We would also like to thank all the Doctors and Nuses from CHC and the ER staff. A special appreciation goes out to the San Jose and Kantaye Kristo Rai Choirs and especially to our techa Mrs. Marcy Cepeda

Your kindness is deeply appreciated and will be remembered always. May our loving and kind Lord richly bless all of you and keep you in his heart.

Thank you and Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Anthony I. Duenas, Children and Families
Merced V. Cabrera and Rufina I. Duenas
Children and Families

A friendly smile,
a casual touch.
These are the things
that mean so much.

To know you are with us
in our time of sorrow.
Sharing our prayers,
today and tomorrow.

God gives us comfort
in the form of good friends.
May His peace be with you.
His love never ends.

Will Disney's new Tonto be any better?

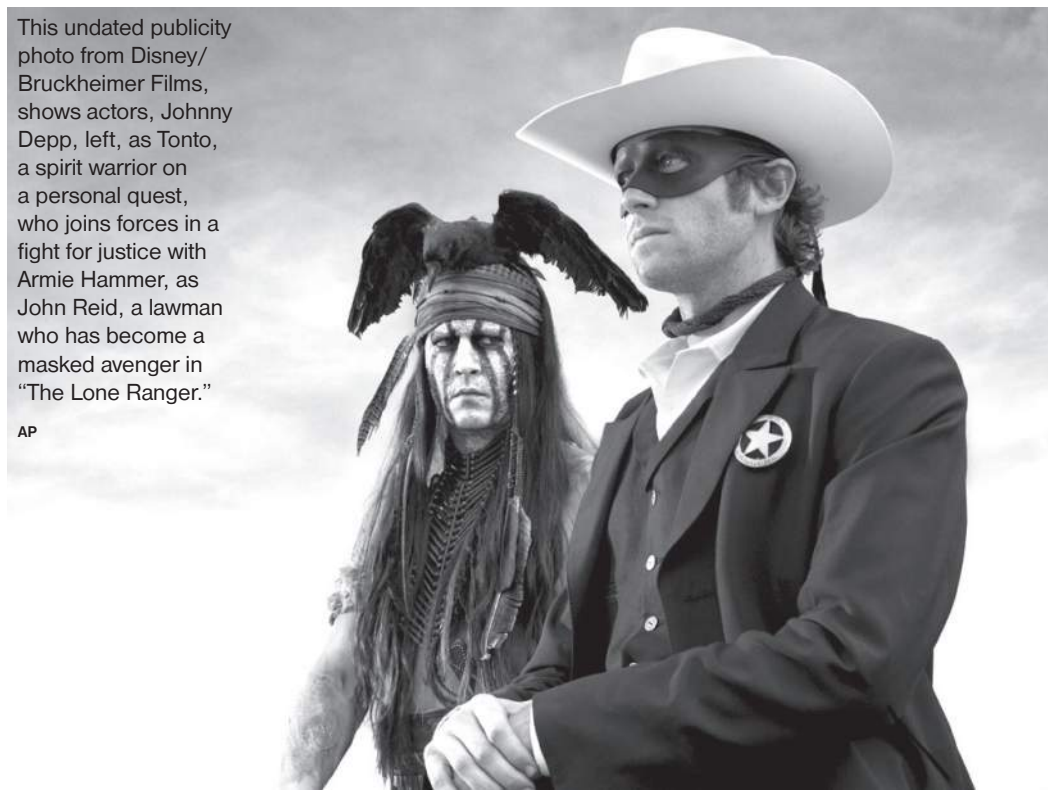
FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP)—The Hollywood image of Tonto once had the Lone Ranger's sidekick wearing a thin headband and lots of dangling fringes. The latest Disney version has a shirtless Johnny Depp adorned with feathers, a face painted white with black stripes, and a stuffed crow on his head.

The character in the upcoming "The Lone Ranger" still speaks broken English and chants prayers. But Depp has said he's less subservient, honors the proud American Indian warrior and displays a dry sense of humor seen throughout Indian Country. The production even hired a Comanche adviser, making it decidedly a Comanche story, and received the blessing of other tribes through ceremonies during filming.

Yet Disney has caught flak for what some say is the perpetuation of stereotypes through a character that lacks any real cultural traits. Moviegoers will have to wait until July 3 to see how all this plays out on screen. For now, they're getting a glimpse through movie trailers that have left them both optimistic and angry, and wondering to what extent the new Tonto portrays actual American Indians.

What has most people scratching their heads is the black crow that appears to hover over Depp's head, and the black stripes that run vertically down his painted face. The inspiration came from a painting by artist Kirby Sattler, who said his work isn't specific to one tribe but is modeled after nomadic Plains tribes of the 19th century.

Depp took the image to the film's Comanche adviser, William "Two-Raven" Voelker, to ask if it was far-fetched. His answer: It's not.



This undated publicity photo from Disney/Bruckheimer Films, shows actors, Johnny Depp, left, as Tonto, a spirit warrior on a personal quest, who joins forces in a fight for justice with Armie Hammer, as John Reid, a lawman who has become a masked avenger in "The Lone Ranger."

AP

"There are a lot of people out there screaming who are not Comanche, as in this story Tonto is supposed to be," Voelker said. "They know nothing of bird culture. When we wear or use those feathers, we're calling on the energy of the entire bird."

Depp's elaborate costumes—as seen in "Pirates of the Caribbean," ''Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and "Edward Scissorhands"—are nothing new. Voelker said he never would have agreed to be a consultant on the movie had he not been assured the production team would be sensitive to American Indian culture and committed to at least some historical accuracy.

The teepees used in the movies, for example, have four poles to reflect the way the Comanche built them, not three more commonly seen in movies and that trace back to Cheyenne and Sioux tribes. The production also visited Oklahoma to hear the Comanche language being spoken and worked with Voelker and others to give Depp Comanche lines in the movie.

The story of westward expansion as told from Tonto's perspective isn't entirely accurate historically. Some of the scenes are filmed in Monument Valley on the Navajo Nation, with trains curving around the spires that Navajos believe are petrified deities, and Depp and co-star Armie Hammer looking out beyond the cliffs. Voelker had sought out the sweeping expanses of the southern Plains, home to the Comanche Nation.

Hanay Geiogamah, a member of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma who advised Disney on "Pocahontas," said Depp's Tonto comes off as a mystical, radical modernization of the character played by Jay Silverheels in the 1950s, which is by far the most recognizable.

"You can say, 'well, American Indians are going to like this one more,'" Geiogamah said. "Are they going to respond more positively to the Johnny Depp Tonto? You're still responding to a non-Indian, stereotypical image."

Eileen Maxwell, a spokeswoman for the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, said Depp has a tall order to fill if he wants to turn Tonto into a more positive image.

"All of its past iterations have not been good for Native Americans," she said. "They've been stereotypical, one-dimension and not true depictions of the westward expansion, which was devastating to Native America."

Ernest Tsosie of the Navajo comedy duo, James and Ernie, is looking forward to seeing the movie.

One scene has Tonto and the Lone Ranger atop a train, being held at gunpoint by an outlaw who asked if they're going somewhere. The Lone Ranger says no; Tonto insists they are. His straight-face turns to a smirk as the two are picked off the train by a hook that catches the chains that tie them together.

'Gatsby' gives 'Iron Man 3' a run for its money

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Gatsby looks almost as great as a superhero at the weekend box office.

Leonard DiCaprio's "The Great Gatsby" partied like it was the Roaring Twenties with a $51.1 million debut that made it a surprisingly strong runner-up to comic-book blockbuster "Iron Man 3."

Studio estimates Sunday put "Gatsby" at No. 2 behind Robert Downey Jr.'s superhero sequel, which pulled in $72.5 million domestically to raise its total to $284.9 million after just 10 days in U.S. theaters.

With an additional $89.3 million in its third weekend overseas, "Iron Man 3" lifted its international total to $664.1 million and its worldwide haul to $949 million.

"The Great Gatsby" far exceeded expectations by distributor Warner Bros. of a $35 million to $40 million opening weekend.

Director Baz Luhrmann's 3-D adaptation of the F. Scott Fitzgerald classic was a rare box-office smash for films aimed at older adults during the youth-minded summer season. According to Warner Bros., viewers over 25 made up 69 percent of the film's audience.

AP

This film publicity image released by Disney-Marvel Studios shows Robert Downey Jr., left, as Tony Stark/Iron Man and Gwyneth Paltrow as Pepper Potts in a scene from "Iron Man 3."

"It answers the question that you and I hear all the time from people over 50, 'There's nothing for me to see,'" said Dan Fellman, the studio's head of distribution. "While every studio has the $200 million tentpoles in the marketplace, you still have those who feel that it's not directed at them, which is true. So that's why I think counterprogramming like this is very important."

The weekend's other new wide release, Lionsgate's romantic comedy "Peeples," flopped at No. 4 with just $4.9 million. Produced by Tyler Perry, the movie stars Craig Robinson and Kerry Washington in a meet-the-parents-style farce.

Getting a head start on its domestic launch Friday, "Star Trek: Into Darkness" opened with $31.7 million in seven international markets. Its overseas debut included $13.3 million in Great Britain, $7.6 million in Germany and $5.5 million in Australia.

Starring DiCaprio in the title role as 1920s mystery millionaire Jay Gatsby, the latest Fitzgerald update co-stars Carey Mulligan as his lost love and Tobey Maguire as the friend chronicling their doomed romance.

It was by far the biggest debut ever for filmmaker Luhrmann, whose previous best was $14.8 million for "Australia." In just one weekend, "The Great Gatsby" nearly matched the $57.4 million domestic haul that Luhrmann's top-grossing film, the musical "Moulin Rouge!", managed in its entire run.

"Gatsby" also gave DiCaprio his second-biggest debut, behind the $62.8 million take for "Inception."

The film's success follows a bumpy road to theaters. Originally scheduled for release last December, Warner Bros. pushed it back to summer to give Luhrmann more time to finish his elaborate visual spectacle.

How well the film holds up in coming weeks depends on word-of-mouth from fans. Reviews for "The Great Gatsby" have been so-so, with many critics saying it sacrifices drama and substance for style and dazzle, including Lurhmann's elaborate party scenes backed by a contemporary soundtrack featuring Jay-Z, Beyonce and Lana Del Rey.

1. **"Iron Man 3,"** $72.5 million ($89.3 million international).
2. **"The Great Gatsby,"** $51.1 million.
3. **"Pain & Gain,"** $5 million.
4. **"Peeples,"** $4.9 million.
5. **"42,"** $4.7 million.
6. **"Oblivion,"** $3.9 million ($11.7 million international).
7. **"The Croods,"** $3.6 million ($17.3 million international).
8. **"The Big Wedding,"** $2.5 million.
9. **"Mud,"** $2.4 million.
10. **"Oz the Great and Powerful,"** $802,000.

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THE GREAT GATSBY [CC] (PG-13)
Fri. - Mon.(420 PM)

IRON MAN 3 [CC] (PG-13)
Fri.(425 PM) 725 PM 1025 PM
Sat.(125 425) 725 1025
Sun.(125 PM 425 PM) 725 PM
Mon.(425 PM) 725 PM

THE GREAT GATSBY 3D [CC] (PG-13)
Fri.720 PM 1020 PM
Sat.(120 PM) 720 PM 1020 PM
Sun.(120 PM) 720 PM
Mon.720 PM

IRON MAN 3 3D [CC] (PG-13)
Fri.(400 PM) 700 PM 1000 PM
Sat.(100 400) 700 1000
Sun.(100 PM 400 PM) 700 PM
Mon.(400 PM) 700 PM

PAIN AND GAIN (R)
Fri.(405 PM) 705 PM 955 PM
Sat.(105 405) 705 955
Sun.(105 PM 405 PM) 705 PM
Mon.(405 PM) 705 PM

OBLIVION [CC] (PG-13)
Fri. - Sat.(430 PM) 730 PM 1005 PM
Sun. - Mon.(430 PM) 730 PM

OBLIVION [CC] (PG-13)
Sat. - Sun.(130 PM)

JURASSIC PARK 3D (PG-13)
Fri.(415 PM) 715 PM 1015 PM
Sat.(115 415) 715 1015
Sun.(115 PM 415 PM) 715 PM
Mon.(415 PM) 715 PM

GI JOE: RETALIATION [CC] (PG-13)
Fri.710 PM
Sat. - Sun.(110 PM) 710 PM
Mon.710 PM

THE CROODS [CC] (PG)
Fri. - Sat.(410 PM) 945 PM
Sun. - Mon.(410 PM)

www.REGmovies.com

IDOL

From Page 19

er been lower for "Idol," which for nine seasons was the most-watched show on TV.

What went wrong? How did "Idol" lose its way? Was it merely a lackluster crop of contestants this season? Their song selections? Or have viewers simply grown weary of searching for yet another superstar since 2002? Maybe they were turned off by that ongoing feud between hip-hop diva Minaj and pop queen Carey, just as much as by some of the contestants?

"When you're on the stage, it does feel pretty awkward," acknowledged Candice Glover, the R&B vocalist who will face off against country singer Kree Harrison on Wednesday. "When it's happening to another contestant, I try not to watch. I don't think it overshadows the performance, but when you're up there, you have to wait for them to finish (the back-and-forth)."

The tone between the pair is far darker than the days when Cowell playfully teased Paula Abdul, and the vitriolic tweets and sensational asides between Minaj and Carey have stood in stark contrast to all the "girl power" up on stage. For the first time, five female singers ascended to the top of the pack, and a woman will win the show's grand prize for the first time since 2007.

It's likely no consolation that over on NBC's "The Voice," which has regularly toppled "Idol" in the ratings this year, drama-free celebrity panelists like Usher, Adam Levine, Cee Lo Green and Shakira actually seem to all get along. Some of them even dueted together last week at a Los Angeles event. It's difficult to imagine Minaj ever laying down a rap alongside Carey.

"I don't think 'Idol' is ever going to get back to its glory days," said Yahoo's Parker. "It's really difficult to retool any show that's been around for this long and make it the No. 1 on TV all over again. That said, I think it could rebound if they cast a diverse set of contestants and judges that have good chemistry. They don't necessarily have to be mega-stars."

The old "Star Search" show originally lasted for 12 years before it fizzled out (ironically, it was resurrected in 2003 after the success of "Idol"). It doesn't seem "Idol" has reached that point just yet. The show is still a huge moneymaker and draws millions of viewers. At its peak in 2003, the "Idol" finale attracted more than 38 million. Last season, more than 21 million watched the conclusion.

Perhaps even more will tune in to this week's finale to see this version of the "Idol" judging panel one last time.

Meyers will be the 'Late Night' host

By JOE FLINT
LOS ANGELES TIMES

NEW YORK—Seth Meyers has been tapped to be the host of NBC's "Late Night" after Jimmy Fallon takes over for Jay Leno as host of "The Tonight Show" next year.

The appointment of Meyers, 39, a cast member and head writer on NBC's "Saturday Night Live," had been expected for weeks and was made Sunday. Meyers is best known as the anchor on the show's "Weekend Update" feature.

Lorne Michaels, the producer of "Saturday Night Live," will oversee Meyers' show, which airs weeknights at about 12:30 a.m., after "The Tonight Show." Michaels also will be executive producer of "The Tonight Show" after it moves to New York with Fallon, another "SNL" alum, as host.

NBC has yet to set a date for Leno to step down, but it is expected to take place early next year during NBC's coverage of the Winter Olympics.

Seacrest becoming Telemundo kingmaker

NEW YORK (AP)—Ryan Seacrest will produce a new music series for the Spanish-speaking Telemundo network that will feature two established artists competing for the audience's vote.

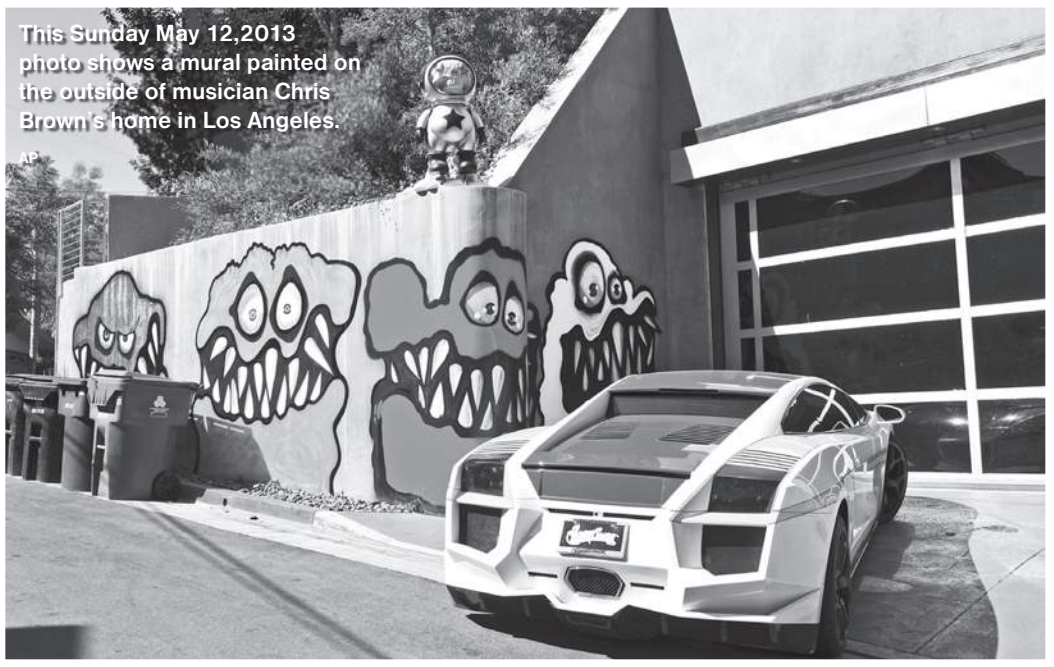
The format for "Superstar Showdown" has been successful in other countries. Emilio Romano, president of Telemundo Media, said he's hoping the "American Idol" host will use his connections and leverage to attract talent. The network hasn't publicly set a start date for the series.

Seacrest

Telemundo announced several of its programming plans for next season on Sunday. The network usually gets less than half of the audience of the dominant Univision, but it has become more aggressive with the backing of corporate parent NBC Universal. Telemundo had its highest ratings ever during the first three months of 2013.

"We've been the underdog for so many years, and we've been given the mission to fight and fight hard," Romano said.

Telemundo will air five new telenovelas next season. The prime-time soap operas, stuffed with melodrama and romance, are generally the programming backbone for Spanish-speaking networks.


This Sunday May 12,2013 photo shows a mural painted on the outside of musician Chris Brown's home in Los Angeles.
AP

Chris Brown's scary curbside art irks LA neighbors

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Grammy-winning musician Chris Brown's neighbors are unhappy with the creepy art he's chosen to have painted along the curb of his Hollywood Hills home.

A neighborhood group said the grimacing, sharp-toothed, red-eyed goblins painted along a retaining wall have been scaring local children, and is an eyesore to boot, the Los Angeles Times reported.

"There are lots of babies, lots of children, and they're literally frightened. It's like devils on the wall—big scary eyes and big scary teeth, and just the whole vibe is not what we're used to," Patti Negri, president of the Hollywood Dell Civic Association, told the newspaper.

L.A. city code officials responded to complaints about the monster art and cited the "Run It!" singer $376 for unpermitted and excessive signage.

Under city ordinances, it's illegal to create murals on most private properties. Though that didn't stop Madonna from painting her Hollywood Hills home in red and yellow stripes in the 1990s.

Brown has been ordered to remove the goblin paintings within 30 days, but his attorney Mark Geragos said the musician is not backing down. "They are trying to suspend the First Amendment," Geragos said, referring to the constitutional right to free speech.

Geragos alleges neighbors are harassing Brown, and have also made parking complaints about him and called animal control.

Brown's tumultuous relationship with singer Rihanna and foul-mouthed Twitter presence have given him a bad boy reputation.

'Django Unchained' back in Chinese movie theaters

BEIJING (AP)—Quentin Tarantino's violent slave-revenge movie "Django Unchained" returned to Chinese theaters on Sunday, about a month after it was pulled on opening day for unspecified "technical reasons."

The rare suspension order on April 11 by the movie's importer, China Film Group Corp., led to speculation that the Hollywood film had run afoul of Chinese censors despite weeks of promotion.

"Django Unchained" reportedly already had some violent scenes cut and had been cleared by China's rigorous censors, who generally remove violence, sex and politically edgy content.

"The new version is one minute shorter than the previous one," said a manager at a UME Cineplex cinema in Beijing.

The manager, who gave only his surname, Wang, speculated that a nude scene might have been cut.

Calls to China's regulatory agency, the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television, were not answered.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Little Richard's boyhood home to be moved

MACON, Georgia (AP)—Officials in Georgia have decided to move the boyhood home of Little Richard to spare it from a highway construction project. Macon Mayor Robert Reichert made the announcement Friday. WMAZ-TV reports (http://on.wmaz.com/YB9JwR) that the 80-year-old singer is receiving an honorary degree on Saturday from Mercer University. Born Richard Wayne Penniman, Little Richard grew up in Macon's Pleasant Hill community. That's a neighborhood that was later divided by the construction of Interstate 75. The "Tutti Frutti" singer's boyhood home faced possible demolition to make room for a planned expansion of the interchange. City officials said the home will be relocated to a lot near the Pleasant Hill community garden. At its new location, the house will be used as a neighborhood resource center.

Banksy graffiti will go back up for sale in London

LONDON (AP)—An artwork by secretive graffiti artist Banksy that sparked controversy when it disappeared from the side of a north London store has been put up for sale in the U.K., months after it was yanked from the block in Miami. The stencil of a young boy sewing Union Jack bunting vanished in February, upsetting art lovers in the gritty Turnpike Lane area. It reappeared on the website of Miami's Fine Art Auctions with an estimated price of $500,000 to $700,000, but was later withdrawn from sale without a reason. The Sincura Group auctioneers say the "Slave Labour" mural has been "sensitively restored" and will go on sale at the London Film Museum on June 2. Local officials said Saturday they will campaign to have the mural returned to north London.

NBC cancels Matthew Perry comedy 'Go On'

LOS ANGELES—It's another strikeout for Matthew Perry: NBC has canceled his comedy "Go On" after just one season. Perry played a sports-talk host trying to recover from his wife's death. Reviews of the show were generally favorable. But the audience lost interest over time: Although more than 16 million viewers turned up for the premiere, according to Nielsen, a paltry 2.7 million watched the April season finale. Perry rocketed to fame as one of the six costars of NBC's smash "Friends." But the road has been a lot bumpier since then. He headlined NBC's short-lived "Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip," Aaron Sorkin's behind-the-scenes look at a "Saturday Night Live"-type comedy show. In 2011, he co-created and starred in ABC's "Mr. Sunshine," which failed to make it through the season.

Woman who doesn't like sex can't get rid of men who do

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am a woman in my late 40s and I hate sex. I always have and always will. I'm disabled, and it has always been torture. I never got any positive benefits out of it.

My problem is I get hit on constantly. I tried marriage once, more for financial reasons than anything else, but I couldn't wait to get out. I'm single now, own my own home, and the men in this town (married and single) all seem to think I'm fair game. They're convinced that I'm in need of satisfaction because I don't date or have a steady man in my life.

I have told them repeatedly that it's not going to happen, but every once in a while one pops up on my doorstep or approaches me in town, only to be told AGAIN to leave me alone.

Please don't tell me to see a therapist. The last one I went to tried to tell me I was gay. No! I'm simply happy being single and sex-free. I go where I want and don't have to answer to anyone. Short of running these idiots off with a shotgun, how do I get it through their thick skulls that I'm not available?

SEXLESS BY CHOICE

DEAR SEXLESS: Although we live in a sex-obsessed society, not everyone—male or female—is a sexual creature. Your therapist should not have tried to label you as gay. You appear to be asexual, which you describe as happily sex-free.

The next time you are hit on by one of these men—who, by the way, probably think that by doing so they are "helping"—tell him you are happy with your life just the way it is, and it isn't necessary to offer help where none is needed. Period.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I really like this girl, but my parents absolutely cannot stand her. They hate that she has a tattoo and a lip ring, but her appearance has had no effect on her professional life, as she is on the road to success in her field. I am not writing to ask whether I should stay with her, because I intend to. She's an amazing person, a hard worker, a trustworthy partner and, most of all, she's my best friend.

How can I diffuse potentially "combustible" situations with my parents, who always try to put her down no matter how often I plead my case?

JOE IN RHODE ISLAND

DEAR JOE: Whether your parents approve or not, tattoos seem to have become a rite of passage for many people of your generation, and so have lip rings, eyebrow rings and multiple ear piercings. If you are over 21 and living independent of your parents, then you have the right to choose the women you become involved with. From your letter, I'd say your values are mature.

In time, your parents may recognize the fine qualities you see in this young woman. If they don't, they may wind up estranging a son. Right now, getting into a debate about her will be a losing proposition and I'm advising you against it.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'll be visiting the United States in a couple of weeks, and I'm really excited. Now my question: How do I tip the waitress properly? I know to round the bill by 15 percent and up, but do I pay only in cash, or can I have this amount charged to my credit card? Are there any other things I have to look out for? I don't want to offend anyone.

JUTTA IN TRIER, GERMANY

DEAR JUTTA: If you prefer to add your tip to your credit card, it is perfectly acceptable to do so. However, before you pay, you should review the bill to be sure that a gratuity has not already been included, which can happen when a group of people dine together. I hope you will enjoy your visit to our beautiful country and that it will be the first of many.

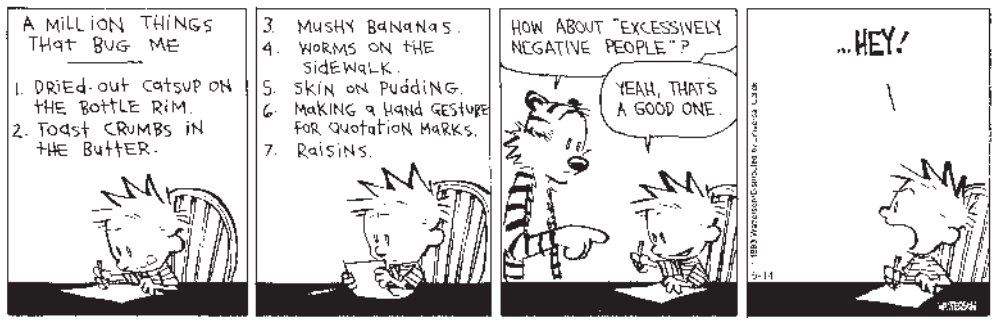
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

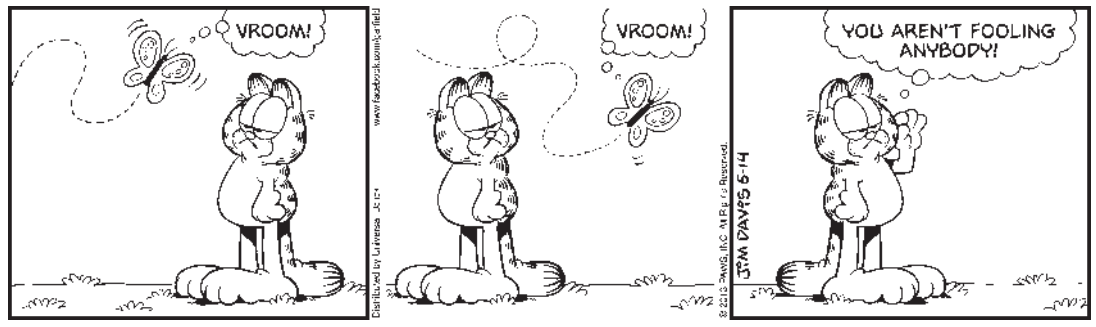
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


A MILLION THINGS THAT BUG ME
1. DRIED-OUT CATSUP ON THE BOTTLE RIM.
2. TOAST CRUMBS IN THE BUTTER.
3. MUSHY BANANAS.
4. WORMS ON THE SIDEWALK.
5. SKIN ON PUDDING.
6. MAKING A HAND GESTURE FOR QUOTATION MARKS.
7. RAISINS.
HOW ABOUT "EXCESSIVELY NEGATIVE PEOPLE"?
YEAH, THAT'S A GOOD ONE.
...HEY!

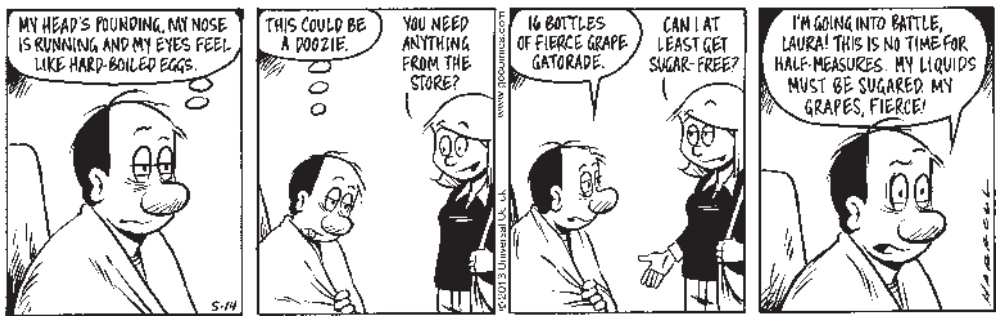
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


MY HEAD'S POUNDING, MY NOSE IS RUNNING AND MY EYES FEEL LIKE HARD-BOILED EGGS.
THIS COULD BE A DOOZIE.
YOU NEED ANYTHING FROM THE STORE?
16 BOTTLES OF FIERCE GRAPE GATORADE.
CAN I AT LEAST GET SUGAR-FREE?
I'M GOING INTO BATTLE, LAURA! THIS IS NO TIME FOR HALF-MEASURES. MY LIQUIDS MUST BE SUGARED. MY GRAPES, FIERCE!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

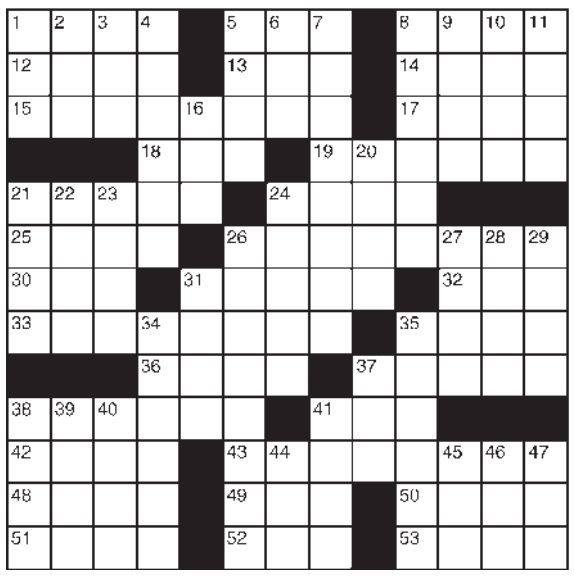
ACROSS
1 Sacred wading bird
5 Suitable
8 Morse "T"
12 Created
13 Meadow
14 Erstwhile Peruvian
15 Series of missed calls
17 Celebrity
18 Pair
19 Consecrate with oil
21 Cognizant
24 Huffed and puffed
25 Shrewd
26 Lunch holder
30 Tokyo's old name
31 Canonized one
32 Beer-like brew
33 Joke that won't work on radio
35 On the briny
36 Thy
37 Theater staffer
38 Treeless tract
41 Blond shade
42 Ark builder
43 Long-popular jazz tune
48 Shrek, for one
49 Pirouette pivot
50 Car
51 German city
52 Finish
53 Encounter

DOWN
1 Mischievous tyke
2 "Humbug!"
3 Altar affirmative
4 Guard
5 Chorus member
6 Shooter ammo
7 Annoying follower
8 Drop from a will
9 Opposed
10 Read cursorily
11 Rodgers collaborator
16 Lamb's mama
20 Salamander
21 Dogfight participants
22 Gully
23 Awestruck
24 Pipe type
26 Loaf of French bread
27 Wild party
28 Sheltered
29 Paraphernalia
31 Halt
34 It's handy if you have to break your word
35 Religious retreat
37 Handle
38 Uppity one
39 Takeout phrase
40 Deserve
41 On in years
44 Charged bit
45 Regret
46 Corroded
47 Obtained

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	D	D	■	S	A	G	A	S	■	S	E	W
S	U	E	■	T	R	O	V	E	■	U	S	E
H	O	N	E	Y	M	O	O	N	■	N	A	P
■	■	■	A	L	A	■	W	A	L	N	U	T
W	A	F	T	E	D	■	S	T	A	Y	■	■
F	M	U	■	S	A	D	■	F	S	S	F	N
R	E	N	D	■	S	O	B	■	H	I	V	E
E	N	N	U	I	■	G	E	L	■	D	E	W
■	■	Y	M	C	A	■	I	A	M	F	N	T
W	E	B	B	E	D	■	I	W	O	■	■	■
A	G	O	■	M	O	N	E	Y	B	A	G	S
C	A	N	■	A	B	O	V	E	■	B	I	O
O	D	E	■	N	E	V	E	R	■	E	N	D

Yesterday's answer 5-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Miranda Cosgrove, 20; Cate Blanchett, 44; Tim Roth, 52; George Lucas, 69

Happy Birthday: Communicate and get to the bottom of any situation you face this year by being straightforward. You will accomplish more if you dedicate your time and energy to embracing whatever comes your way and moving on. Travel must be planned and impulse kept to a minimum. Strategize and put your plans in motion without hesitation. Precision leads to victory. Your numbers are 11, 13, 23, 26, 31, 42, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): An emotional incident can be expected. The way you handle peers, colleagues, clients or anyone you do business with will make a difference to your future direction and prospects. Do not divulge secret information or get involved in a secret encounter. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Pick up the pace. Take on a worthy cause or do what you can to support your community. A sense of belonging will bring you closer to people sharing your concerns. Listen carefully to what's being offered. Respond with enthusiasm. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Protect your assets and keep tabs on what and whom you owe. Negotiate legal and contractual issues, but be sure to get whatever you agree upon in writing. A personal relationship can cause you grief due to uncertainty or infidelity. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Emotions will be close to the surface. Put your effort into a creative endeavor, learning a language or trying something unusual. Getting together with someone from a different background will broaden your outlook. A partnership will enhance your life. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Stubbornness will be followed with repercussions if you aren't willing to compromise. Additional responsibilities may weigh you down, but the rewards will be worth your while. A change in attitude will help you find common ground with someone you are at odds with. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Emphasize what you can do for others as well as what you can learn. Do not mix business with pleasure or let a professional incident escalate. A chance to integrate what you know into a project that interests you will pay off. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You will learn from the people you encounter and the places you visit. A cultural event will spark ideas and new possibilities. You'll be surprised at how easy it is to change direction if you take action and make it happen. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You'll be daydreaming and tweaking your imagination with the thoughts you ponder. Create a plan that can buy you the freedom you want and start the ball rolling. You'll get help from an unusual source. Do whatever it takes to reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may desire change, but don't do anything rash. Self-improvement will help you project a better image and more confidence. Love and romance are in the stars, but honesty may be lacking. Check motives before you give your heart away. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Follow a path that you feel comfortable pursuing. Get involved with people you feel can and will help you reach your goals. Express your emotions openly and take suggestions someone makes seriously. Communication will lead to resolution. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll have to deal with pressure and added responsibility. Dealing with someone in an authoritative position may be intimidating, but if you are well-prepared you should be able to handle any situations you face. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Concentrate on your skills and talents and put them to the test. Networking functions will enable you to connect with people who are trying to reach similar goals. Banding together with the right people will pay off. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, caring and attentive. You are disciplined, engaging and perceptive.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			4		8			9
	2				7	1		
1	4	6		5				
3			9					
		5		4		9		
					6			8
				6		5	7	1
		8	3				2	
6			1		2			

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	7	5	2	6	3	9	1	4
1	6	2	9	4	7	8	3	5
9	4	3	1	5	8	2	7	6
2	9	7	5	8	4	3	6	1
5	3	1	6	9	2	7	4	8
4	8	6	3	7	1	5	2	9
6	5	4	7	3	9	1	8	2
3	2	9	8	1	6	4	5	7
7	1	8	4	2	5	6	9	3

Difficulty Level ★ 5/13

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ROGER EBERT (1942-2013) Solution: 11 letters

S	S	S	E	B	E	R	T	F	E	S	T	A	R	S
P	N	K	S	O	R	E	P	O	R	T	E	R	N	O
O	O	R	S	O	C	A	U	T	H	O	R	M	R	P
R	I	A	A	K	H	R	L	E	C	T	U	R	E	R
T	N	M	Y	S	A	T	I	W	A	L	K	L	A	A
E	I	E	S	W	Z	W	T	T	O	O	Y	E	D	H
A	P	R	E	G	O	R	Z	C	I	T	R	O	E	P
C	O	N	W	R	I	T	E	R	S	C	E	N	R	E
H	H	I	S	T	E	L	R	V	Y	T	T	A	S	S
E	C	T	H	T	S	C	O	R	I	S	L	R	D	O
R	E	L	S	N	O	E	A	N	I	E	A	D	I	J
A	U	A	T	H	U	M	B	S	D	O	W	N	G	W
T	T	M	O	L	M	S	K	S	P	O	T	S	E	O
E	M	S	A	U	S	E	M	I	T	B	N	S	S	H
S	T	V	S	M	L	I	F	U	P	L	I	S	T	S

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Warriors beat Spurs 97-87 in OT, even series 2-2

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—His spirits down, his left ankle limp and his team's season hanging in the balance, Stephen Curry wondered whether he could recover for the biggest game of his career until a text message popped up on his phone around 2 a.m. Saturday.

Curry called back his mother, Sonya, and vented his frustrations about his latest—and most inopportune—injury setback. Finally, she spoke up to calm his concerns.

"She just reminded me and battled tested me to rely on my teammates for support," Curry said.

What followed was a Mother's Day masterpiece.

Curry scored 22 points to go with six rebounds and four assists on a bum ankle, rallying the Golden State Warriors past the San Antonio Spurs 97-87 in overtime Sunday to even the Western Conference semifinal at two games apiece.

"It seems like every time you get on a roll and feel somewhat healthy there's a setback," said Curry, who shot 7 of 15 from the floor, including 5 of 10 from 3-point range. "And it just tests you. It changes your routine. It changes your outlook on the game, your preparation. You've got to deal with the injury and the adjustments you're making as a team."

Game 5 is Tuesday in San Antonio.

Curry and the Warriors overcame the obstacles with contributions from all over.

Rookie Harrison Barnes had a career-high 26 points and 10 rebounds, Jarrett Jack added 24 points in reserve and Andrew Bogut grabbed 18 rebounds to help Golden State erase an eight-point deficit in the final five minutes of regulation. The Warriors scored the first nine points of overtime to whip the yellow-shirt wearing crowd of 19,596 into a frenzy and give this topsy-turvy series yet another twist.

Even Warriors coach Mark Jackson doubted whether Curry could play, especially after his star point guard took an anti-inflammatory injection in the morning to ease the soreness in his sprained ankle and still had trouble getting loose. Jackson cornered Curry outside the chapel service at the arena to see how he felt.

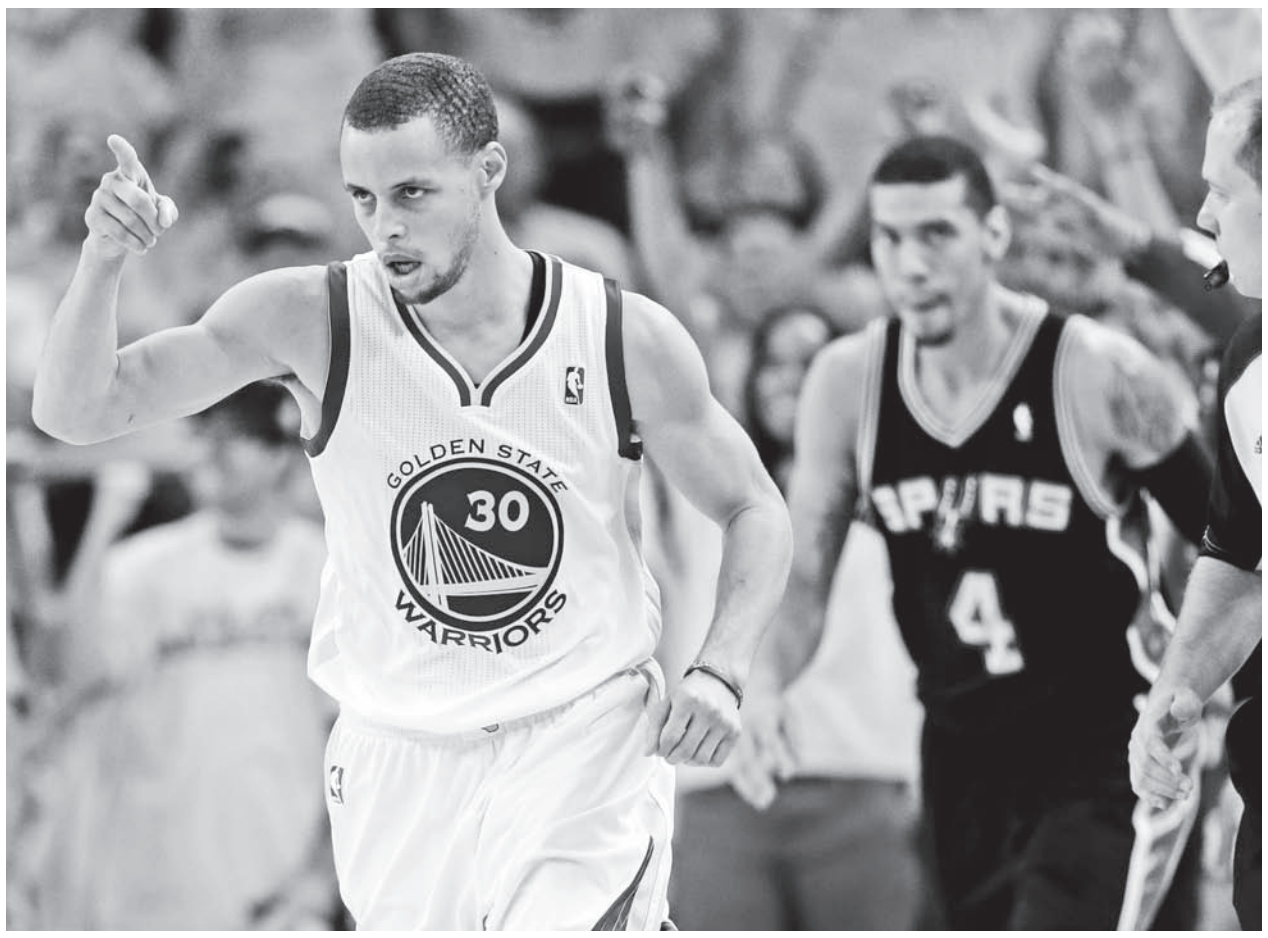
"He said, `I'm going to give you what I got, coach.' That's not the language he speaks. I knew right away that he was not 100 percent," said Jackson, who conferred with general manager Bob Myers in his office before letting Curry play. "Once again, it's that same spirit flowing through that locker room that refuses to quit."

Even for all of the theater Curry provided, the Spurs seized control of a sloppy slugfest at the start until going cold shooting when it mattered most.

Tony Parker, wearing a black sleeve around his bruised left calf, poured in 17 points on 6-of-17 shooting but never broke free the way he did in scoring 32 points the previous contest, saying the injury limited his ability to elevate. Manu Ginobili had 21 points and Tim Duncan added 19 points and 15 rebounds as the Spurs ran out of steam in the end.

"We put ourselves in a position to win the game and it's frustrating because we feel like we gave it away," Duncan said.

Golden State outshot San Antonio 38 to 35.5 percent. The Warriors also outrebounded the Spurs 65-51.



AP

Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry celebrates after scoring against the San Antonio Spurs' Danny Green (4) during the second half of Game 4 of a Western Conference semifinal NBA basketball playoff series in Oakland, Calif., Sunday, May 12, 2013.

"They did a good job in overtime. Just as simple as that," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said.

Ginobili hit a mid-range jumper and a 3-pointer, and Kawhi Leonard put back a rebound for an easy layup to put the Spurs ahead 80-72 with 4:49 remaining in the fourth quarter. With the series slipping away from the Warriors, their home sellout crowd sat down and fell silent for one of the few times in the fourth quarter all postseason.

Jack hit three jumpers and Klay Thompson added another to pull the Warriors even with less than a minute to play in regulation. After Parker provided a jumper to put the Spurs ahead 84-82, Thompson dribbled to his right and banked in the tying shot over Leonard with 30 seconds left.

Both teams missed shots to win in regulation, and the Warriors turned the extra session into a runaway.

Curry capped the overtime spurt with a floating layup, drawing a foul on Duncan to begin a three-point play that gave Golden State a 93-84 lead. San Antonio missed its first nine shots—and two free throws by Danny Green—to start overtime until Green's corner 3 with 1:29 remaining.

By then, it was too late—Curry had taken control again.

"He's a player that you may see him playing on one leg, one arm, and you got to guard him," Ginobili said. "So you got to respect him. He can really go off at any time."

The upstart Warriors are once again on the brink of something big.

The franchise hadn't won two games beyond the first round since 1977, when it pulled even with the Lakers in the conference semifinals through four games before losing in seven. This time, all the odds seemed against them again.

The tight turnaround from Friday night's game to the early afternoon start Sunday surely didn't help Curry's cause.

Curry clearly favored his left ankle and never showed any burst off the dribble, often getting face-guarded by Spurs defenders and taken out of the offense. Some of his teammates even wondered whether he'd respond.

"Watching him warm up, I said, `Man, there's no way this kid is playing,'" Jack said. "Then watching him run around on one leg, he looked like Isiah Thomas against the Lakers in the finals, man. The performance he put on down the stretch, making plays, making shots, defensively, I sat back and was honestly in awe."

With Curry quieted on the perimeter early and Bogut benched in foul trouble most of the first half, the Warriors missed 13 straight shots and went scoreless for 7:10. The Spurs scored 14 unanswered points during that spurt, Ginobili made his first four 3s and the Spurs later took a 41-30 lead midway through the second quarter on Green's put-back dunk.

The Warriors had been 0-3 when trailing after three quarters this postseason until Curry and company came back.

Curry hadn't checked in with his family when he spoke to reporters while soaking his feet in a bucket of ice in the locker room afterward. But he knew they were all watching from North Carolina with his brother, Seth, who was graduating from Duke.

"It was," he said, "a big day for the Currys."

James shrugs off flopping accusations

CHICAGO (AP)—The suggestion that he's a flopper drew a grin as wide as his wingspan from LeBron James.

Miami's superstar shot down the accusations from the Chicago Bulls, saying they reminded him of the days when some claimed he was overrated and questioned his ability to lead a team to a championship.

"It's kind of the same (as when) I heard people say I was overrated," he said Sunday. "It's kind of like the same response."

The Heat are trying to repeat as champions after a dominant regular season, and if they keep this up, they won't have to worry about Chicago much longer. Game 4 of the Eastern Conference semifinals is Monday, and Miami has a chance to take a 3-1 lead in a series with no shortage of hard fouls, technicals, ejections and fines. One thing in short supply is healthy bodies for the Bulls, with Luol Deng still recovering from a spinal tap and Kirk Hinrich from a bruised left calf. The odds that either would play seemed slim at best on Sunday.

Meanwhile, coach Tom Thibodeau's wallet is a little lighter after the league smacked him with a $35,000 fine on Sunday.

That hit came after he accused James of flopping on that shove to the floor and questioned the officiating after the Heat took Game 3, saying the Bulls weren't going to get the benefit of the calls. Thibodeau had already addressed the media by the time the punishment was announced and declined comment through a team spokesman.

Yet there was still plenty of talk about that incident between James and Mohammed.

"None of this is new to us," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "Nobody can hide from the fact that the games will be decided between those four lines. And our guys understand that."

The Bulls' Taj Gibson expects more of the same.

"Both teams are tough and aggressive," he said. "It's playoff basketball. We're both rivals. They acknowledged it. We acknowledged it. It's just guys going after it playing like they don't like each other. But it's just playoff basketball."

In Game 3, Joakim Noah had already shoved Miami's Chris Andersen after he landed on a driving Nate Robinson late in the first quarter, and things nearly boiled over early in the second.

With James dribbling near midcourt, Mohammed reached in to take a foul and stop a potential break. Their arms got tangled. Mohammed fell, and when he got up, he gave James a hard shove to the court.

Both players picked up technicals. Mohammed got tossed, making him the third Bulls player to get ejected in the series along with Noah and Taj Gibson.

"I don't need to flop," James said. "I play an aggressive game. I don't flop. I've never been one of those guys."

It's probably worth noting that James accused the Bulls of crossing the line a few times back in late March, when they beat Miami at the United Center to snap Miami's 27-game win streak.

"What I said is what I said, but I don't want to get involved too much with what everybody else says about us, about me," he said. "It's nothing I haven't heard before in my career. It's nothing. ... I'm here to play basketball and do whatever it takes for our team to win. So what a coach and players say to me and about me, I don't really care."

Both teams have concerns that stretch beyond the officiating.

For the Bulls, it remains their health. Sunday marked the one-year anniversary of Derrick Rose's surgery to repair a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee, and the only suiting up he's done for a game since then has involved a jacket and tie.

Just about every other key player has missed time at some point, and that's continued into the postseason.

Deng has missed five straight games, Hinrich has sat out six in a row, and both looked like longshots at best to play in Game 4 with Thibodeau saying they're day to day.

Hinrich did little other than some shooting and ride a bike, and Deng couldn't do much, either.

"My body, my system, is not reacting well to anything I'm doing right now," Deng said.

He said he's feeling a little better and has regained two of the 15 pounds he lost because of the illness, but when he tries to exert himself, well, he really can't.

Deng said he tried to work out individually on Saturday and wound up vomiting. He attempted to practice on Sunday and became ill during warmups, forcing him to stop.

"I spoke to coach a little bit, If I could give 5 or 10 minutes, give these guys a little bit of a break but I can't even get through a regular warmup," Deng said.

The Heat, meanwhile, continue to face questions about Dwyane Wade and his sore right knee. He took just seven shots and scored 10 points in Game 3, but he insisted that had more to do with the flow of the game and the Bulls packing the lane than his health.

"A lot of my opportunities were not in the flow of the offense," he said. "If I would have shot a lot, it would have been forced. When I had the ball, I tried to make the best play. Sometimes, it's to get two guys on me and pass it."

Woods keeps it dry and wins Players Championship

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—A weekend filled with sharp words between Tiger Woods and Sergio Garcia came down to one last showdown Sunday in The Players Championship, this one staged across the water in a tiny, terrifying section of the TPC Sawgrass.

Tied for the lead with two holes to play, Woods kept his shots on land and made two pars.

Garcia hit three balls into the water for a quadruple bogey-double bogey finish.

If there was special satisfaction in beating Garcia again, Woods kept that to himself. What mattered was having a chance to win, closing it out like he does so often, and capturing the richest prize on the PGA Tour for the first time in a dozen years.

"We just go out there and play," Woods said. "I had an opportunity to win the golf tournament when I was tied for the lead today, and I thought I handled the situation well and really played well today when I really needed to. And that's something I'm excited about it."

Woods allowed the final hour to turn into a tense duel by hooking his tee shot into the water on the 14th hole for double bogey. But his short game bailed him out to save par on the 15th and make a critical birdie on the 16th, and he was solid on the final two holes for a 2-under 70.

If only it were that simple for the Spaniard.

Garcia was standing on the 17th tee shot, staring across to the island green to watch Woods make his par. He took aim at the flag with his wedge and hung his head when he saw the ball splashed down short of the green. Then, Garcia hit another one in the water on his way to a quadruple-bogey 7. The meltdown was complete when Garcia hit his tee shot into the water on the 18th.

"It's always nice to have a chance at beating the No. 1 player in the world, but unfortunately for me, I wasn't able to this week," Garcia said.

Woods was in the scoring trailer when he watched on TV as Swedish rookie David Lingmerth missed a long birdie putt that would have forced a playoff. It raced by the cup, and Lingmerth three-putted for bogey.

"How about that?" Woods said to his caddie, Joe LaCava as he gave him a hug.

Woods finished on 13-under 275.

He won The Players for the first time since 2001 and became the fifth multiple winner at Sawgrass since The Players moved to this former swamp in 1982. It was his 78th career win on the PGA Tour, four short of the record held by Sam Snead. And it was his first time winning with his girlfriend, Olympic ski champion Lindsey Vonn, at the tournament.

Lingmerth closed with a 72 and finished two shots behind along with Kevin Streelman (67) and Jeff Maggert, who also was tied for the lead until finding the water on the 17th to make double bogey. The 49-year-old Maggert birdied the 18th for a 70.

Garcia took 13 shots to cover the final two holes—6-over par—and tumbled into a tie for eighth.

There was a four-way tie for the lead after Woods made his double bogey, and the infamous 17th green took out Maggert and Garcia. After Garcia went into the water twice, Lingmerth missed an 8-foot birdie putt that would have tied him for the lead.

Given their public sniping at each other over the weekend, it was only fitting that Garcia had the best chance to beat Woods.

Their dispute started Saturday when Garcia complained in a TV interview that his shot from the par-5 second fairway was disrupted by cheers from the crowd around Woods, who was some 50 yards away in the trees and fired them up by taking a fairway metal out of his bag. He said Woods should have been paying attention, and it became a war of the words the next two days.

"Not real surprising that he's complaining about something," Woods said.

"At least I'm true to myself," Garcia retorted. "I know what I'm doing, and he can do whatever he wants."

When they finished the storm-delayed third round Sunday morning, Garcia kept at it, saying that Woods is "not the nicest guy on tour."

Woods had the last laugh. He had the trophy.

Garcia, when asked if he would have changed anything about the flap with Woods, replied, "It sounds like I was the bad guy here. I was the victim. I don't have any regrets of anything."

The real villain was the infamous 17th hole.

"When you've got water in front of the green, that's not a good time to be short of the green. You know, it was close," Maggert said. "What can I say? A wrong shot at the wrong time and you get penalized on this golf course."

It was at the 17th hole five years ago where Garcia won The Players Championship, when Paul Goydos hit into the water in a sudden-death playoff. This time, the island green got its revenge on him. Garcia hit a wedge and felt he caught it just a little bit thin, which is usually all it takes.

"That hole has been good to me for the most part," Garcia said. "Today, it wasn't. That's the way it is. That's the kind of hole it is. You've got to love it for what it is."

Woods earned $1.71 million, pushing his season total to over $5.8 million in just seven tournaments. This is the 12th season he has won at least four times—that used to be the standard of a great year before he joined the PGA Tour in 1996—and this was the quickest he has reached four wins in a year.

It was the second time has won on Mother's Day.

"Sorry, Mom," he said into the camera. "I think she might have had a heart attack. I was in control of the tournament, and I just hit the worst shot I could possibly hit."

AP

Tiger Woods gives a thumbs-up as he holds the trophy after winning The Players Championship golf tournament at TPC Sawgrass, Sunday, May 12, 2013, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Giants hit 3 HRs to back Lincecum, beat Braves, 5-1

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Pablo Sandoval splashed a home run into McCovey Cove to back Tim Lincecum's strong pitching performance as the San Francisco Giants beat the Atlanta Braves 5-1 on Sunday to wrap up a 7-3 homestand.

Brandon Belt and Marco Scutaro also homered for the Giants. Lincecum (3-2) struck out seven in seven scoreless innings to end a three-start winless stretch in which he went 0-2. He also stopped a four-start skid against Atlanta, beating the Braves for the first time since April 11, 2010.

Rockies 8, Cardinals 2

In St. Louis, Jorge De La Rosa held St. Louis hitless into the seventh and Troy Tulowitzki's three-run homer ended Colorado's scoreless streak at 28 innings.

De La Rosa did not allow a hit until David Freese's two-out single in the seventh, answering a pair of pitching gems by St. Louis over the weekend.

Phillies 4, Diamondbacks 2, 10 innings

In Phoenix, Ryan Howard looped a two-run single to right field in the 10th inning after Philadelphia scored twice in the ninth to tie it against Arizona.

Shut down by Brandon McCarthy for the first eight innings, the Phillies rallied on Delmon Young's run-scoring double and Domonic Brown's RBI single off fill-in Diamondbacks closer Heath Bell. Philadelphia had 15 hits to salvage a series split after losing the first two games.

Pirates 3, Mets 2

In New York, Pedro Alvarez hit a tiebreaking single in the eighth inning against New York's overworked bullpen as Pittsburgh got a most fortunate bounce in beating the Mets.

Clint Barmes homered and Jeanmar Gomez left with a lead against young ace Matt Harvey in the Pirates' third straight victory in this four-game series. Pittsburgh improved to 6-13 at Citi Field.

Reds 5, Brewers 1

In Cincinnati, Don Lutz hit his first career home run, a three-run drive off the right-field foul pole in the second inning that led Cincinnati over Milwaukee for a three-game sweep.

Lutz, who made his big league debut on April 29, homered off Wily Peralta (3-3). Pinch-hitter Xavier Paul went deep in the seventh, sending the Brewers to their fourth straight loss and ninth in 10 games.

Cubs 2, Nationals 1

In Washington, Alfonso Soriano scored the tiebreaking run in the ninth inning on a throwing error by catcher Kurt Suzuki as Chicago rallied to beat Washington.

The Cubs didn't have a baserunner through the first five innings against Gio Gonzalez and trailed 1-0 entering the eighth before coming back in the deciding matchup of a three-game series.

Dodgers 5, Marlins 3

In Los Angeles, Chris Capuano pitched effectively into the seventh inning and Scott Van Slyke homered to lead Los Angeles over Miami.

Capuano (1-2) allowed a run and five hits in 6 1-3 innings with seven strikeouts and one walk. Brandon League gave up a two-run double to Adeiny Hechavarria in the ninth.

White Sox 3, Angels 0

In Chicago, Chris Sale took a perfect game into the seventh inning before finishing with a one-hitter as the Chicago White Sox beat the Los Angeles Angels to avoid a three-game sweep.

Mike Trout's sharp single to center ended the perfect game bid with one out in the seventh, on Sale's 70th pitch.

Rangers 12, Astros

In Houston, Adrian Beltre's three-run homer was one of his four hits, and David Murphy and Leonys Martin also homered as Texas completed a three-game sweep.

Texas set a season high for runs in winning its fourth in a row, and did it quickly. Beltre's homer in the fifth made it 12-1.

Blue Jays 12, Red Sox 4

In Boston, Jose Bautista hit two of Toronto's five home runs as the Blue Jays beat Boston to take two of three in the series.

Emilio Bonifacio, Edwin Encarnacion and Brett Lawrie also homered for the Blue Jays.

Yankees 4, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Missouri, Vernon Wells homered for the second straight game and Robinson Cano also connected as the New York Yankees beat Kansas City to wrap up a three-game sweep.

Hiroki Kuroda (5-2) won for the fifth time in six decisions.

Indians 4, Tigers 3, 10 innings

In Detroit, pinch-hitter Mark Reynolds hit a tiebreaking single in the 10th inning as the Cleveland Indians downed Detroit.

Cleveland tied it in the ninth when Michael Brantley hit a two-out RBI single off closer Jose Valverde. Joe Smith (1-0) pitched the bottom of the inning, and the Indians took the lead in the 10th.

Orioles 6, Twins 0

In Minneapolis, Chris Davis, Adam Jones and Steve Pearce homered as the Baltimore Orioles defeated Minnesota.

Wei-Yin Chen (3-3) pitched five strong innings before leaving with a strained right oblique, and the Orioles won for the sixth time in eight games.

Mariners 6, Athletics 1

In Seattle, Joe Saunders won his ninth straight decision at Safeco Field and Kendrys Morales hit a three-run homer, leading the Seattle Mariners over Oakland.

Saunders (3-4) improved to 9-0 with a 1.72 ERA in 13 career appearances at Safeco. He is 3-0 with an 0.94 ERA at home this year, but 0-4 with a 12.54 ERA on the road.

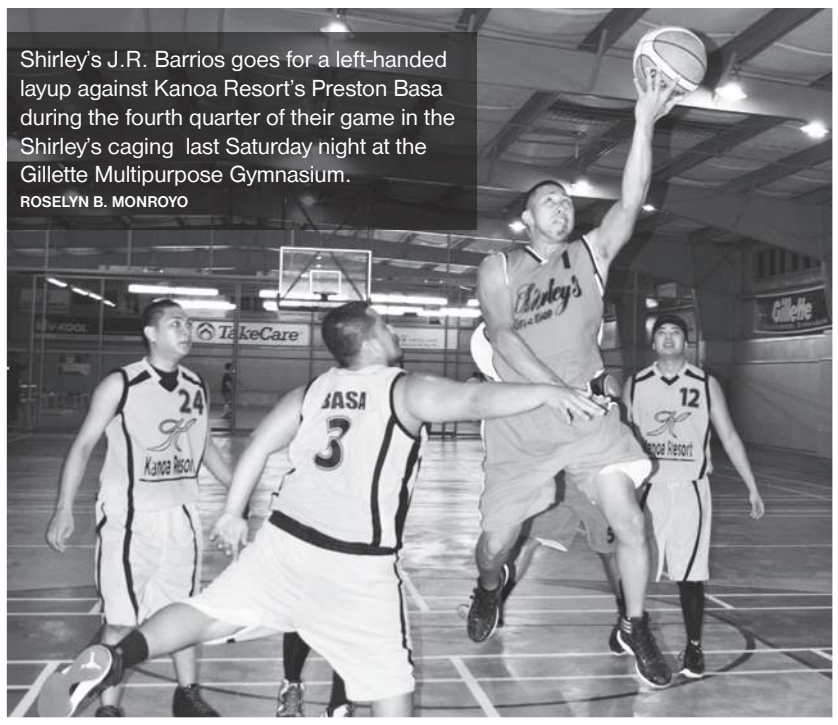
Rays 4, Padres 2

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Sean Rodriguez, Yunel Escobar and James Loney drove in late runs for the Tampa Bay Rays as they finished a three-game sweep of San Diego.

The Rays won their fifth in a row overall.

PSS/Hoops, Shirley's cruise past foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER


Shirley's J.R. Barrios goes for a left-handed layup against Kanoa Resort's Preston Basa during the fourth quarter of their game in the Shirley's caging last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Shirley's and PSS/Hoopaholics posted double-digit winning margins against separate opponents in the Shirley's Coffee Shop Basketball League last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

In the first game, PSS/Hoopaholics routed Mariana Resort, 101-59, while Shirley's topped Kanoa Resort, 107-94, in the second match. Both PSS/Hoopaholics and Shirley's hold a 3-1 record, tying Mobil in second place, while Mariana Resort and Kanoa dropped to 1-3 and 0-3 slates, respectively.

Shirley's, which lost its debut this season, notched its third straight win after outgunning Kanoa in the fourth quarter. The host team was only ahead by a hair at the end of the third, 76-75, and Kanoa even managed to tie the match early in the fourth, 76-all, before the former began dominating the final half of the payoff canto.

Dennis Vinas drilled 13 of his 18 points in the fourth frame, while Erick Dela Rosa chipped in 10, as Shirley's slowly pulled away. Kanoa fell apart anew in the final period, as it was held to three field goals in the first five minutes of play and went scoreless in the next two minutes before picking up garbage points in the end.

J.R. Barrios also logged a team-high 18 points for Shirley, which drew double digits from two other players with Sheen Metran and Errol Peredo contributing 17 apiece. Justin Zapanta and Brian Ajoste had 21 markers each for Kanoa, but the latter was scoreless in the majority of the fourth before notching two field goals in the closing minute of the game. Preston Basa and Perry Inos also finished in twin digits with 14 points each, but both were non-factors in the crucial fourth frame.

In the first game, a 33-point explosion in the second quarter keyed PSS/Hoopaholics' lopsided victory over the depleted Mariana Resort, which had only six players available for the match.

Ahead by only one after the opening period, 19-18, PSS/Hoopaholics pulled away in the second with a 30-plus point production, while limiting Mariana Resort to 7 points. Maverick Itibus led the breakaway, scoring 10 of his 16 points in the second canto, while Ben Lisua added 7 to give PSS/Hoopaholics a commanding 52-25 advantage.

It was cruise control for PSS/Hoopaholics from thereon, as it had enough manpower to sustain the big lead, while only Edwin Camacho and James Abuy carried the heavy load for Mariana Resort.

First Game

PSS/Hoopaholics 101 – Itibus 16, Lisua 15, Villagomez 14, Fitial 13, Tenorio 9, Lee 8, Lauron 8, Mendez 6, Manibusan 6, Diaz 4.

Mariana Resort 59 – Camacho 24, Abuy 17, Ocanada 8, Hidalgo 8, Cruz 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-18, 52-25, 78-44, 101-59.

Second Game

Shirley's 107 – Vinas 18, Barrios 18, Metran 17, Dela Rosa 17, Peredo 17 , Usi 8, Montes 6, Yap 6.

Kanoa Resort 94 – Zapanta 21, Ajoste 21, Basa 14, Inos 14, Bahillo 8, Cadauan 3, Tenepere 2.

Scoring by quarters: 29-23, 50-46, 76-75, 107-94.

EAGLES

From Page 28

tion, the Eagles cruised to a 56-46 triumph, while last year GCA came back from an 18-point deficit in the fourth quarter and eked out a 69-68 victory for a three-peat.

The Genesis Prieto-mentored Eagles went on to complete the four-peat last weekend after dominating the Knights in the second half.

Mt. Carmel held a shaky 24-23 advantage at halftime and opted to use its second stringers at the beginning of the second half, while GCA went to its starters. The new Knights' crew then failed to score for more than four minutes of the third canto, while Eagles starters Yong Jun Choi and Karlo De Leon teamed up in grabbing the lead. The duo scored all of GCA's 14 points with Choi making two triples and drilling 8 points and De Leon chipping in 6 to lift their squad to a 37-31 advantage.

Mt. Carmel was held to two field goals in the pivotal third canto and did not make it to the scoreboard until the 3:26 mark when A.J. Evangelista connected on a drive. Evangelista took the point guard spot for the Knights in the third, as starting quarterback Jared Sablan was saddled with four fouls. Also getting into foul trouble and forced to stay on the bench for the majority of the third were John Saludez and William Camacho, who were called for three fouls each in the first half. Saludez's absence was a big blow to the Knights' offense, as he already scored 10 points in the first half, while Sablan and Camacho combined for 7 markers.

The three MCS key players returned in the fourth quarter, but were cold off the bench with Saludez and Sablan held to 2 points each and Camacho limited to 4. On the other hand, the Eagles kept their momentum in the final canto with Jacob Park coming off the bench and scoring 5 points, while Patrick Reyes added 4. Three other GCA players logged at least one field goal apiece in the payoff period and the Eagles recorded their first double-digit lead, 43-33, off Park's split free throw. The lead ballooned to as high as 14, 51-37, with 2:13 left, and GCA began to celebrate, foiling Mt. Carmel's bid to end its four-season drought. The Knights last won the boys varsity finals during the 2007-2008 season against GCA, 64-54.

Outstanding players

Meanwhile, GCA's James Libut and MCS' Michelle Kautz were named MVPs in their respective divisions and also made it to the All-Star Team.

Joining Kautz in the elite selection were teammate Jan Travilla, GCA's Jazmine Rayphand and Zena Demapan, Saipan International School's Seoung Lee and Phalai Frink, and Marianas Baptist Academy's Noelle Libaldo and Rae Samson. In the boys division, De Leon, Camacho, Saludez, Agape Christian School's Mark Puno and Yang Tao, SIS' Chris Camacho and Jack Lee, and MBA's Kanata Omori and Christian Alamar completed the esteemed group.

GCA 54 – De Leon 15, Choi 12, Reyes 10, Lee 6, Park 5, Hinson 3, Libut 3.

MCS 43 – Saludez 13, Evangelista 9, Ogasawara 7, Sablan 7, Camacho 6, Taguchi 1, Amog 1.

Scoring by quarters: 10-7, 23-34, 37-31, 54-43.

FREESTYLE

From Page 28

win in the last two minutes, holding the Sexy Boys to one field goal in the homestretch. According to coach Ed Echavez, they were down by 6 points, 63-69, in the final two minutes of the match when Melvin Cadiang scored 5 straight points to move Freestyle within one, with less than a minute left on the clock. A Cadiang feed to Celio Bisana inside then put Freestyle on top, 70-69, before Ezra Caro stopped the bleeding for the Sexy Boys with his basket. However, Bisana answered with three consecutive points in the closing seconds to complete the come-from-behind victory.

The mobile Freestyle forward and Cadiang combined for 23 of their 27 markers in the fourth canto to steal the win from the Sexy Boys. Cadiang had 14 markers in the fourth quarter alone, while Bisana chipped in 9, as Freestyle turned a 46-55 deficit to a two-point win.

Freestyle, which bowed to GHD in its opening game before winning its next three, had to play catch up in the second half after scoring only 9 points in the second canto. The Sexy Boys trailed after the first period, 16-20, but grabbed the lead in the second frame, 31-20, and nearly made it a double-digit advantage in the third behind the 8 points of Ralph Francisco.

However, the Sexy Boys lost the lead and eventually the game as Francisco went scoreless and only Caro and James Sablan made more than one field goal in the fourth canto. While the Sexy gunners cooled off, Cadiang started heating up Freestyle's offense, drilling 9 of their first 13 points, seven of them were made in succession. The Freestyle wingman had another string of points in the closing minutes, teaming up with Bisana in bailing their team out of trouble.

Lyn's Heat 77, Flip Top 72

In the first game, Lyn's Heat also rallied past Flip Top to end its three-game losing skid.

Lyn's Heat fell behind by as much as 8 points in the first half and was still down by 2 after the third period, Manolo Manalo, Dan Mateo, and Joy Dayrit teamed up in the fourth-quarter recovery. Manalo dropped 7 of his 11 markers in the final canto, Dayrit added 6, and Mateo canned two of their last three field goals to put Lyn's Heat in the win column.

Flip Top absorbed its first loss in three games after nailing only four field goals and scoring 12 points in the final canto. Kevin Deleon, who had already logged 21 points after the third, was limited to one field goal and one free throw. While Nevin Salem was also neutralized, connecting only one field goal and two charities.

First Game

Lyn's Heat 77 – Dayrit 16, Mateo 12, Devero 12, Manalo 11, Capalad 6, Cayanan 5, Montano 5, Garcia 3, Hernandez 2.

Flip Top 72 – De Leon 24, Salem 16, Valiente 8, Fleming 7, Cabaltica 6, Hockett 5, Toribio 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-24, 35-40, 58-60, 77-72.

Second Game

Freestyle 73 – Bisana 23, Cadiang 21, Brown 13, Tobias 7, Ong 4, Del Rosario 2.

Sexy Boys 71 – Caro 16, Maranan 13, Manglona 12, Francisco 12, Sablan 7, Tangcoy 4, Tinio 3.

Scoring by quarters: 20-16, 29-31, 46-55, 73-71.

WEEKEND

From Page 28

Steven Kileleman's single to third base driving Justine Magofna home and got four more in the third. However, these were not enough to mount a comeback, as Comets II also nailed four runs in the next two innings, including a solo homer from Kobe Santos in the fourth inning to claim the early win via 10-run mercy rule.

Santos went 2-for-3 at the plate and scored three runs and three RBIs. Rejay Iskawa and Elijah Villar also hit 2-for-3 and contributed two runs apiece with the former adding one RBI.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	23	13	.639	—
Baltimore	23	15	.605	1
Boston	22	16	.579	2
Tampa Bay	19	18	.514	4 1/2
Toronto	15	24	.385	9 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	20	15	.571	—
Detroit	20	15	.571	—
Kansas City	18	16	.529	1 1/2
Minnesota	17	17	.500	2 1/2
Chicago	15	20	.429	5

West Division

Texas	24	13	.649	—
Oakland	19	20	.487	6
Seattle	18	20	.474	6 1/2
Los Angeles	14	23	.378	10
Houston	10	28	.263	14 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	21	16	.568	—
Washington	20	17	.541	1
Philadelphia	18	21	.462	4
New York	14	20	.412	5 1/2
Miami	11	27	.289	10 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	23	13	.639	—
Cincinnati	22	16	.579	2
Pittsburgh	21	16	.568	2 1/2
Milwaukee	15	20	.429	7 1/2
Chicago	15	22	.405	8 1/2

West Division

San Francisco	23	15	.605	—
Arizona	21	17	.553	2
Colorado	20	17	.541	2 1/2
San Diego	16	21	.432	6 1/2
Los Angeles	15	21	.417	7

THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida (AP)–Scores Saturday from The Players Championship, a PGA Tour event played at the 7,215-yard, par-72 TPC Sawgrass course.

FINAL ROUND

Tiger Woods (600), $1,710,000	67-67-71-70–275
Kevin Streelman (230), $709,333	69-70-71-67–277
David Lingmerth (230), $709,333	68-68-69-72–277
Jeff Maggert (230), $709,333	70-71-66-70–277
Martin Laird (110), $346,750	71-67-73-67–278
Ryan Palmer (110), $346,750	67-69-70-72–278
Henrik Stenson (110), $346,750	68-67-71-72–278
Ben Crane (78), $237,500	69-71-72-69–281
Sergio Garcia (78), $237,500	68-65-72-76–281
Marc Leishman (78), $237,500	72-66-71-72–281
Rory McIlroy (78), $237,500	66-72-73-70–281
Brandt Snedeker (78), $237,500	71-69-71-70–281
Lee Westwood (78), $237,500	69-66-74-72–281
Casey Wittenberg (78), $237,500	67-69-70-75–281
Brendon de Jonge (58), $156,750	72-69-70-71–282
Tim Herron (58), $156,750	71-69-74-68–282
Webb Simpson (58), $156,750	67-71-74-70–282
Jimmy Walker (58), $156,750	72-71-72-67–282
Jason Day (49), $107,214	69-75-71-68–283
Luke Donald (49), $107,214	72-69-73-69–283
Zach Johnson (49), $107,214	66-71-76-70–283
Adam Scott (49), $107,214	69-68-75-71–283
Roberto Castro (49), $107,214	63-78-71-71–283
Hunter Mahan (49), $107,214	67-70-71-75–283
Louis Oosthuizen (49), $107,214	69-75-67-72–283
Graham DeLaet (42), $67,450	71-70-74-69–284
James Driscoll (42), $67,450	75-68-70-71–284
Matt Every (42), $67,450	70-71-71-72–284
David Hearn (42), $67,450	72-71-71-70–284
David Lynn (42), $67,450	72-68-68-76–284
Jeff Overton (42), $67,450	71-70-69-74–284
Daniel Summerhays (42), $67,450	69-74-69-72–284
Sang-Moon Bae (37), $52,488	68-71-75-71–285
Harris English (37), $52,488	70-71-73-71–285
Kyle Stanley (37), $52,488	75-68-68-74–285
Chris Stroud (37), $52,488	73-69-69-74–285
Greg Chalmers (32), $41,800	68-73-68-77–286
Charley Hoffman (32), $41,800	70-74-71-71–286
Jerry Kelly (32), $41,800	71-68-73-74–286
Andres Romero (32), $41,800	69-72-71-74–286
Steve Stricker (32), $41,800	67-71-72-76–286
Bubba Watson (32), $41,800	73-70-70-73–286
Chad Campbell (26), $31,350	71-72-74-70–287
Martin Kaymer (26), $31,350	73-69-76-69–287
William McGirt (26), $31,350	70-74-70-73–287
Sean O'Hair (26), $31,350	70-71-69-77–287
John Senden (26), $31,350	73-70-71-73–287
K.J. Choi (20), $23,614	69-73-74-72–288
Freddie Jacobson (20), $23,614	72-71-71-74–288
D.A. Points (20), $23,614	72-70-77-69–288
Boo Weekley (20), $23,614	71-71-73-73–288
Branden Grace, $23,614	73-71-67-77–288
Matt Kuchar (20), $23,614	71-66-75-76–288
Davis Love III (20), $23,614	70-72-70-76–288
Jason Bohn (13), $21,280	68-74-75-72–289
Angel Cabrera (13), $21,280	74-70-69-76–289
Chris Kirk (13), $21,280	70-69-75-75–289
Justin Leonard (13), $21,280	70-74-74-71–289
Charl Schwartzel (13), $21,280	72-71-75-71–289
Michael Thompson (13), $21,280	69-75-72-73–289
Charlie Wi (13), $21,280	74-70-75-70–289
Jason Dufner (8), $20,235	71-67-72-80–290
James Hahn (8), $20,235	70-74-73-73–290
Josh Teater (8), $20,235	72-72-76-70–290
Bo Van Pelt (8), $20,235	69-74-79-68–290
Charles Howell III (5), $19,665	71-67-77-76–291
Seung-Yul Noh (5), $19,665	70-74-73-74–291
Kevin Chappell (2), $19,190	69-66-78-79–292
John Huh (2), $19,190	70-72-73-77–292
Carl Pettersson (2), $19,190	70-72-75-75–292
Rory Sabbatini (1), $18,810	75-68-76-74–293
Ricky Barnes (1), $18,430	71-71-74-78–294
Brian Davis (1), $18,430	78-66-75-75–294
Peter Hanson (1), $18,430	70-70-72-82–294
Ben Curtis (1), $17,955	69-72-80-74–295
Padraig Harrington (1), $17,955	68-76-75-76–295
Jonas Blixt (1), $17,670	69-75-77-76–297

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2013 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships

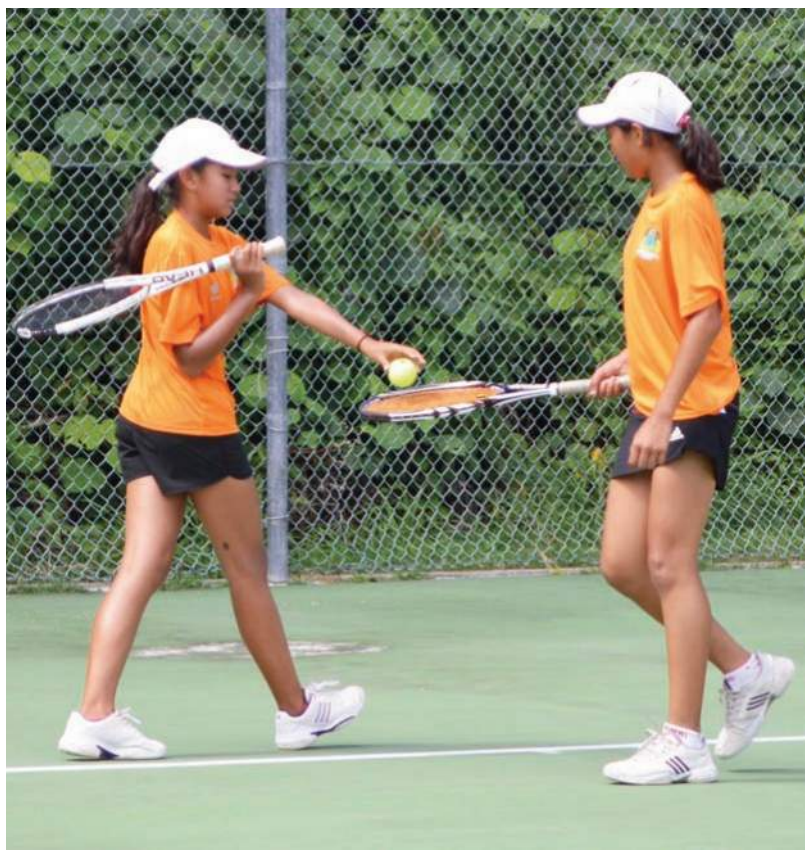
PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Maria Gregoire returns to Ellie Epley during their U10 singles semis game in the 2013 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships early this month at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Dylan Ackerman, left, and Moris Villanueva gesture after scoring a point against Thea Minor and Jake Lee in their semis match in the U18 co-ed doubles.

Thea Minor gets ready to serve against Mikayla Lopez.

Michael Jones goes for a corner return against Haruya Eda.



Tania Tan, left, gives the ball to teammate Carol Lee.

Catherine has all eyes on the ball.

Ellie Epley rushes to the ball.

Conatsu Kaga steps in for a return.

Mikayla Lopez hits a low ball.

Julia Ishikawa makes a backhand return.

Woods keeps it dry and wins Players Championship

PAGE 25

Warriors beat Spurs 97-87 in OT, even series 2-2

PAGE 24

Eagles soar to fourth straight title

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Grace Christian Academy's Yong Jun Choi bangs into the defense of Mt. Carmel School's Mark Ogasawara during the first quarter of their title game in the boys varsity division of the COPSSA caging last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy extended its reign in the boys varsity division of the Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Basketball League after beating perennial rival Mt. Carmel School, 54-43, in the one-game finals last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The title win was the Eagles' fourth in a row and all were against the Knights. GCA started its streak in the 2009-2010 season, as it downed Mt. Carmel, 73-69. Then in the 2010-2011 competi-

See **EAGLES** on **Page 26**

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Freestyle's Ed Echaves pulls up for a jumper against Sexy Boys' Ezra Caro during the second quarter of their game in the DLX caging last Friday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Freestyle notches third consecutive victory

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Freestyle stretched its streak to three and took the solo lead in Bracket B of the 2013 DLX Invitational Basketball League after pulling off a 73-71 come-from-behind win against the Sexy Boys last Friday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Freestyle (3-1) stole the

See **FREESTYLE** on **Page 26**

Weekend games rained-out; Comets I wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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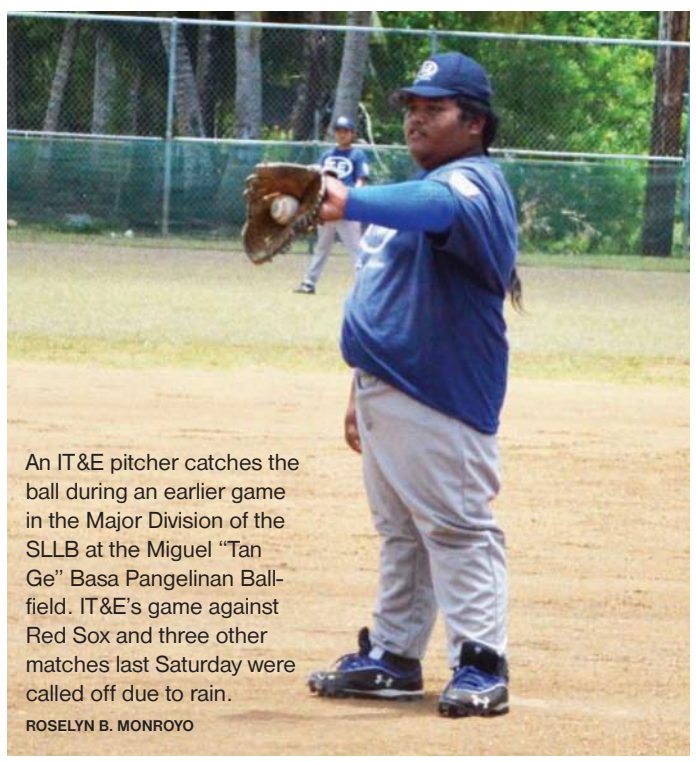
REPORTER

Heavy rains forced the cancellation of games in the 2013 Saipan Little League Baseball over the weekend, while the Comets I grounded the Juan Santiago Tenorio Jets, 15-5, last Thursday.

Four matches in the Major Division were rescheduled at the soaked Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield, while playoff games both in the Junior and Senior divisions were set at the equally muddy Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. SLLB officials have yet to announce when the postponed games in the Senior and Junior will be rescheduled, while action in the Major division will resume this week with the NSA Braves taking on Laolao Bay Golf Resort today at pm and Bank of Saipan Red Sox meeting McDonald's on Thursday, also at 4pm.



An IT&E pitcher catches the ball during an earlier game in the Major Division of the SLLB at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield. IT&E's game against Red Sox and three other matches last Saturday were called off due to rain.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The last few games in the regular season will determine the playoff cast in the Major division. The Comets I with its easy win over the Jets are one of six squads assured of slots to the eight-team playoff. The Comets I is in solo third place in the team standings with its 10-3 record, behind by one win against division leader Talaabwogh Falcons (11-1) and the second running NSA Braves (11-2).

Laolao is in fourth place with its 10-3 slate, followed by the Pinnacle Rockies (10-4), JPO Enforcers (10-4), McDonald's (9-4), Go See Mark Ol'Aces (8-5), Kagman Little Legals (7-7), Red Sox (6-6), Comets II (5-9), Survivors (4-8), As Matuis Twins (3-11), IT&E (1-13), Jets (1-13), and the Kagman Ford Rangers (0-13).

Good hitting in the first two innings and an erratic defense from its foe helped Comets I soar past the Jets after only four innings. Comets II got four runs off the Jets errors at the top of the first inning and then added more runs, three came from miscues, to build an 11-1 advantage.

The Jets scored their first run at the bottom of the second with

See **WEEKEND** on **Page 26**